

### Third of Israelis doubt Oslo accords

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One in three Israelis doubts that the Palestinian autonomy process launched three years ago by the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat will lead to peace in the foreseeable future, according to a poll published Wednesday. Another third believe that the Oslo peace accords will resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict while the final third had no opinion or think Israel is destined to a future of neither peace nor war, according to the survey by Tel Aviv University. The poll was conducted late last month among 506 Jewish Israelis and has a margin of error of plus or minus four per cent. A "peace index" compiled monthly by the university's centre for peace research, showed that 64 per cent of Israelis expressing general support for the peace process, the same figure found during a July survey.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي

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ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية

Volume 21 Number 6324

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-13, 1996, RABBI II 28-29, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Iraq rebuilds links with Kurds, warns Iran, Turkey and fires missiles at U.S. warplanes

Washington moves Stealth and B-52 planes to Gulf; fears mount of fresh strikes on Iraq

PUK rejects amnesty; Baghdad complaints to U.N. Kurdish refugees enter Iran after KDP shooting over Clinton's help for U.S. allies in northern Iraq

#### Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI STARTED to rebuild economic links with the Kurdish north and warned its neighbours to keep out of the region as it fired missiles at U.S. warplanes patrolling a "safe haven" for the Kurds on Wednesday.

The U.S. began moves that signalled a possible resumption of last week's missile attacks on southern Iraq. The Pentagon said it was sending eight F-117 Stealth fighters to the Gulf region and also ordered two B-52 bombers to the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

An Iraqi Shiite opposition group renewed charges that Iraq was building up forces

in the south for a possible move against Shiite dissidents there after Baghdad gained proxy control of northern Iraq through supporting one Kurdish rebel faction against another.

The Iraqi government meanwhile complained to the United Nations about U.S. President Bill Clinton's offer to help Iraqis who worked for the U.S. escape northern Iraq and warned that Baghdad would take retaliatory measures.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which was ousted from its strongholds in northern Iraq in a Baghdad-backed attack by its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) turned down an Iraqi government offer of amnesty.

Baghdad began to lift its five-year-old blockade on the Kurdish north, with traffic resuming between the city of Kirkuk and three Kurdish-held provinces, Iraqi state radio said.

Some 350 cars travelled between Kirkuk and the Kurdish-held areas, the radio reported.

President Saddam Hussein on Tuesday ordered the lifting of the trade and oil blockade he imposed in 1991 on the Kurdish areas and granted an amnesty to his Kurdish opponents.

The KDP and PUK controlled Iraqi Kurdistan in defiance of Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war, but their power-sharing agreement broke down three years later.

Diplomats in Baghdad

said KDP leader Massoud Barzani, for whom Iraqi forces seized the main town of Erbil on Aug. 31 triggering the rout of the PUK, was now expected to resume autonomy negotiations with the Iraqi leadership.

The two sides already agreed on the broad outlines of a deal for Kurdish autonomy before the Erbil offensive, they said.

Buoyed by the KDP victory, the Iraqi government daily Al Jumhuriya warned neighbouring Turkey and Iran to stop interfering in the region.

It said the sweeping victory had stabilised northern Iraq and made outside intervention unnecessary.

Refugees said after the shooting some 5,000 people

rushed toward a closed border crossing. Iranian border guards shot into the air but could not halt them, they said.

Tens of thousands of refugees had streamed towards Iran to escape advancing forces of the Iraqi-backed KDP, which took Sulaimaniyah, Iraq's biggest Kurdish city, on Monday from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Iraqi Kurds have begun trickling back into the town of Sulaimaniyah, spokeswomen for refugee organisations said.

Christina Fedele of the International Committee of the Red Cross said "at least several hundred refugees" had returned to the town after fleeing to the Iranian border.

"Still," she said, "we are

still considering sending a relief convoy from Baghdad to the towns of Penjwin and Qulawalen." Ruth Marshall of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees added: "There are people returning to Sulaimaniyah, but we don't know how many."

"We only know that the city has water and electricity and that it's calm," she said.

Iranian relief workers set up tents in a large field about 500 metres from a line of trees marking the border. The refugees had spent the night in cars or outside in the rugged mountainous region.

"I left Sulaimaniyah after my sister called me on Sunday to tell me that the Iraqis were coming," said Sirwan Rostam, a 50-year-old school supervisor. "I have

been active with a Kurdish women's union and criticised Saddam publicly, so I had to leave."

"Now I am here with a few clothes and some money I could bring. I have lost touch with my sister. I am finished. I am dead," she said.

Two dozen women in colourful Kurdish dresses queued for water near a tanker sent by Iran's Red Crescent Society.

As Iranians passed out food and medicine to the Kurds refugee women were warned to cover up.

Public works vehicles arrived from Marivan in the Iranian province of Kurdistan, the closest large city, to begin preparing the ground at a former market area.

Although the Iranians dis-

(Continued on page 7)

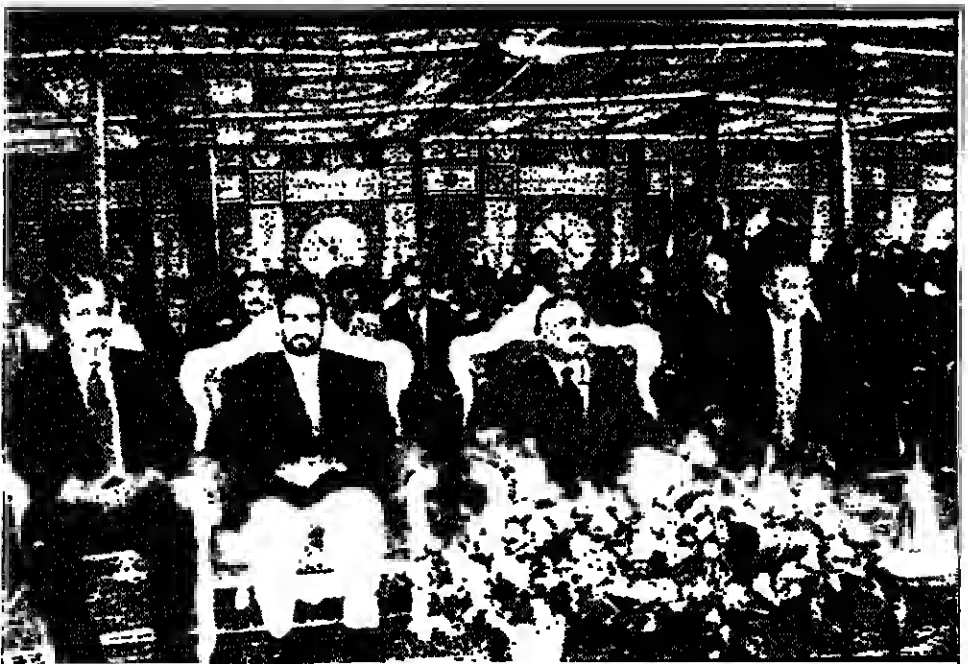
## Regent visits Salt, urges focus on quality over quantity as means to deal with unemployment

SALT (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday that Jordan, which has turned out thousands of university graduates, should give due attention from now on to quality rather than quantity.

He said that at the same time Jordanians should rise to the level of challenges and deal with the questions of unemployment and poverty in the most objective manner.

The Regent was addressing a public meeting in Salt during a visit at the invitation of the Ensour tribe accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary and director of the National Security Council, as well as Cabinet members and Parliament deputies from Balqa Governorate.

He said that stability could and should be achieved and enhanced through collective social and economic endeavours,



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, and other officials on Wednesday attend a meeting in Salt (Petra photo)

stressing that only through commitment and diligent work could Jordan achieve progress and prosperity.

The Regent conveyed to the local citizens the King's

greetings and said the Monarch would shortly pay a visit to Salt.

At the outset of the meeting several speakers including former minister Abdul

Raazak Ensour and Salt Mayor Hani Khreisat delivered speeches welcoming the Regent and renewing the city's allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

## Turkey plays for time over Iraq plan

ANKARA (R) — Turkey played for time on Wednesday in its effort to set up a security zone against Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq that worries the Arabs.

"An assessment of the situation is being made and preparations are ongoing. It will be declared at the appropriate time," Foreign Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel told reporters.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan was to meet an Iraqi envoy later in the day to try to persuade Baghdad to accept Turkish control over a thin strip of its land along the rugged border.

Many Arab states, including some at odds with Baghdad, have criticised Turkey's plan to establish a cordon up to 10 kilometres deep inside Iraq to stem border infiltrations by Turkey's Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels based there.

There has been little sign of the plan being put into operation, despite a military buildup on the 330-kilometre border last week and tough talk from Turkish generals.

"Our (diplomatic) contacts are continuing," Mr. Akbel said.

Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said on Monday that Turkey would soon invite "all the Arab World's representatives" to explain the policy.

Egypt, a member of the 1991 Gulf war coalition against Iraq, fears any Turkish military presence in Iraq could set a precedent for neighbour Iran or the Western powers to take chunks of Iraqi territory.

The Arabs are also concerned that approval of the Turkish plan would legitimise Israel's self-proclaimed anti-guerrilla security zone set up in southern Lebanon since 1985.

Even Morocco and Mauritania, several thousand kilometres from the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan, have warned Turkey.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Wednesday listens to a local leader during a visit he paid to Rweished (Petra photo)

## Kabariti assures Rweished citizens of commitment to offering them services

RWEISHED (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Wednesday visited Rweished area in the eastern hadia region and met local notables and representatives of government and private organisations and told them that the government was keen on developing their region.

"There are many urgent issues that need to be tackled, mainly the water issue, which is so sensitive and requires immediate attention from the concerned authorities," Mr. Kabariti said.

He said Minister of

Water and Irrigation Samir Kawar will be visiting the Rweished region soon with solutions to the water problem.

"As to the artesian wells which have been closed since 1984, this is a question to be addressed by a special technical committee which will visit the region soon," added Mr. Kabariti.

He referred to questions raised by local leaders and the Rweished district governor during the meeting and said that the Ministry of Education had made plans for enlarging the existing schools in

Rweished to absorb more students and end the two-shift school system.

The Health Ministry has made plans and allocated funds for improving health services in the coming year while the Ministry of Finance and the Lands and Survey Department will settle issues pertaining to land ownership, he said.

He said the government was ready to solve other issues related to passports for the local citizens and promised the electrification of remote villages in the

(Continued on page 7)

## Italy appeals for oil-for-food deal to go forward

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Italy on Wednesday urged the N. Security Council to allow the implementation of an oil-for-food deal in the next two months to alleviate the plight of "millions of innocent Iraqi citizens."

Italian Ambassador to the Council colleagues based here, said he urged to "send a signal to the world that the Security Council is not blind to the drama that is unfolding before our eyes."

Mr. Fulci said the council should encourage Iraqis to come to the table to negotiate immediately, so that the matter of a couple of months the operation can be on the ground."

Mr. Fulci, pointing to the desperate humanitari-

deal following an Iraqi push into Kurdish areas of northern Iraq. Citing security reasons, he delayed the deployment of monitors and oil inspectors who must be in place before the oil-for-food deal can go forward.

The arrangement provides for Iraq, which has been under international sanctions for six years following the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, to resume limited oil exports in return for humanitarian supplies.

But U.S. officials insist that the arrangement should be reviewed in the light of the new situation on the ground where Kurdish forces loyal to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein now control Erbil, the main distribution centre for the Kurdish humanitarian supplies.

Mr. Fulci, pointing to the desperate humanitari-

an situation in Iraq where in 1995 four million people risked serious malnutrition, said "how can we allow the Iraqi people to continue to pay, year after year, for the mistakes and aggressive policies of their leadership?"

Mr. Fulci noted that because of Iraq's refusal to cooperate with U.N. arms inspectors, the international sanctions were unlikely to be lifted soon.

The oil-for-food deal "remains the only hope of implementing, without further procrastination, the appalling humanitarian situation of millions of innocent Iraqi civilians."

Mr. Fulci is proposing the adoption of a formal statement urging Dr. Ghali to conclude the preparations rapidly.

But such a move would require a consensus among the 15 members

which are split over the Iraq issue, and diplomats said that the council may decide to send Dr. Ghali a letter instead.

Britain and the United States were on Friday forced to withdraw a draft resolution criticising Baghdad for its offensive in northern Iraq, in the face of a Russian veto threat and resistance from China and France.

China, France and Russia are concerned that the oil-for-food deal, from which their countries stand to gain, has been effectively frozen since the Iraqi offensive.

A senior Iraqi government official, under-secretary of state at the Iraqi foreign ministry Riad Al-Qaysi, is holding talks with individual Security Council members this week.

## Hebron observers' mandate extended; Eitan threatens to resign if army quits

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday signed an agreement extending by one month the mandate of international observers at Hebron.

"I signed with the director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, Eytan Ben Tsur, an accord extending by one month the mandate of the Norwegian contingent of international observers at Hebron," Palestinian official Saeb Erakat said.

"Over the month we will try to come to a new agreement

for deploying international observers. Norway is going to invite Australia, Denmark, Italy, Sweden and Turkey to join the group of international observers," he said.

Mr. Erakat expressed hope that Israel will partially pull out of Hebron in the Israeli Agriculture Minister Raphael Eitan meanwhile threatened to resign if the military pulls out of Hebron.

"If Isahai (the military) withdraws from Hebron and the Jewish settlers are abandoned there, I will no longer have a place in this government," he said during an inter-

view with Israeli public television on Wednesday.

Mr. Eitan is leader of the secular extreme-right Tsomet Party which allied itself with the Likud Party for the May 29 general elections.

"The agreements which have been signed with the Palestinians are leading to a catastrophe," he said.

He said he did not at all approve of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Sept. 4 meeting with Palestinian President Arafat, in order to tell him directly at the highest level what he can't in any case expect from Israel."



## Taleban said to have captured Jalalabad

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Taleban militia Wednesday took control of the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

The agency quoting a radio message from Taleban's main commander said the militia was in control of the city and its main airport. No independent confirmation was immediately available.

Earlier the government in Kabul said its troops had entered Jalalabad after the collapse of the provincial ruling council led by a neutral governor Haji Abdul Qadir.

Mr. Abdul Qadir fled to Pakistan Tuesday and his successor Engineer

Mahmood along with two colleagues was reported shot dead Wednesday.

AIP quoted the Taleban officials in northwestern Pakistani border city of Peshawar as saying that the Kabul government jets carried out at least two bombing runs on the religious militia at Surkhud, about 15 kilometres west of the garrison city.

The Taleban continued their advance after the air raids, it said.

The private news agency, based in Peshawar, said its own sources in Jalalabad also confirmed the fall of the city to the Taleban militia late Wednesday.

The Taleban earlier overran several strategic districts in eastern Ningharbar province.

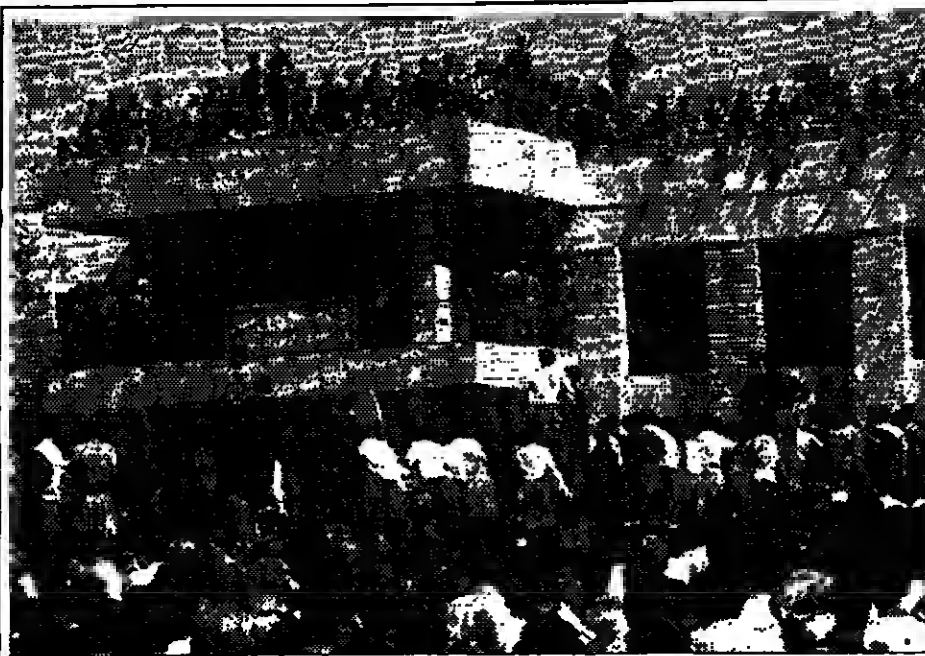
Engineer Mahmood and council member Saz Noor were attacked while driving on the highway from Jalal-

abad to the Pakistan border post of Torkham, AIP said. It did not identify the attackers.

AIP said Eng. Mahmood was appointed acting governor of the province early on Wednesday after Mr. Abdul Qadir crossed into Pakistan as the Taleban advanced towards Jalalabad after capturing two districts to the west of the province.

It said Eng. Mahmood and Mr. Noor were probably on their way to Torkham to talk to Taleban representatives when they were attacked.

Taleban sources in Pakistan said earlier Mahmood had taken control of Jalalabad to prevent any lawlessness and would hand over the town to Taleban when the militia forces arrived there.



KDP FLAG OVER SULAIMANIYEH: Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) supporters hoist their flag atop a building in the city center in Sulaimaniyah after KDP fighters had entered the northern Iraqi town after ousting rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) fighters led by Jalal Talabani (see page one) (Reuters photo)

## Rabin agreed to total Golan withdrawal, book asserts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promised the United States he would fully withdraw Israeli forces from the Golan Heights in exchange for a secure peace with Syria, according to a book published Thursday.

The book, a chapter of which was to appear Thursday in the newspaper Yediot Aharonot, said Rabin agreed to the Golan pullout after receiving a message, transmitted via the United States, from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad agreeing for the first time to security arrangements demanded by Israel.

According to the book, Rabin was willing to withdraw Israeli forces to the armistice line which set the Israeli-Syrian frontier prior to June 4, 1967.

At funeral services for Rabin, after he was assassinated on Nov. 4 by a right-wing Jewish extremist, U.S. President Bill Clinton asked his successor, Shimon Peres, if he would agree to the same peace conditions.

In the book titled "The Man Who Did Not Know How To Win," Mr. Peres, who had been Rabin's foreign minister, was said to be totally unaware of the secret Israeli-Syrian negotiations that had been led by the former prime minister.

"Peres was furious at having been kept in the dark and immediately summoned military and security officials to find out just what commitments had been made by his predecessor," according to the book.

The new prime minister eventually decided to pursue contacts with Syria on the same basis as Rabin and was confident that a peace agree-

ment could be signed with Damascus "within six months" — before Israeli national elections then scheduled for November 1996.

The book claims Mr. Assad, however, had changed his mind in the interim and was no longer willing to agree to Israeli demands concerning security arrangements to accompany an Israeli pullback from the Golan.

After several rounds of U.S.-mediated talks failed to produce a breakthrough, Mr. Peres called early elections for May and was defeated by right-wing candidate Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel's former ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, who the book says took part in the secret Syria negotiations under Rabin, denied on Wednesday that any "formal agreement" had been reached with Mr. Assad.

When Mr. Clinton arrived for Rabin's funeral Nov. 6, he told Mr. Peres that the United States considered Rabin's promise valid, and asked whether the new government would stick by it, the book said.

It said Mr. Peres was upset by the revelation. "Look at what Rabin did to me, and people say I'm not trustworthy," she quoted Mr. Peres as saying in an apparent reference to the longstanding rivalry with Rabin that preceded the friendship of later years.

However, two senior Israeli officials reportedly privy to Rabin's secret, on Wednesday denied such a promise was made.

"Neither Yitzhak Rabin nor any other Israeli leader, as far

as I know, made any commitment that was legally or diplomatically binding to the Syrians about a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights," ex-Ambassador Rabinovich told Israel army radio.

Uri Saguy, former head of military intelligence under Rabin, also denied there was a secret pledge.

In meetings with Mr. Clinton this week, Mr. Netanyahu reportedly said he wanted to start from scratch in the talks with the Syrians and would not feel bound by understandings the Rabin government reached with Mr. Assad, Syria insists the talks continue where they left off.

In an interview with army radio, Foreign Minister David Levy made clear that Israel would not be pushed into talks.

"Israel is ready to talk peace with Syria, but not through threats or dictates from any side," Mr. Levy said. On Tuesday, the U.S. State Department unsuccessfully tried to set up a three-way meeting between Mr. Netanyahu, adviser Dore Gold, Syrian Ambassador Walid Mualllem and U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, the daily Maariv said.

Maariv said that Mr. Gold waited for many hours in Mr. Ross' office while the Americans spoke by phone with the Syrians.

Mr. Netanyahu, meanwhile, expressed concern over recent Syrian army manoeuvres. The prime minister reportedly told Mr. Clinton that although he does not believe Syria intends any offensive attack the army movements could be misconstrued.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lebanon to ask Oslo to extradite hijacker

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government plans to ask Norway to extradite a Palestinian who hijacked a Bulgarian airliner to Oslo this month, officials said Wednesday. Hazem Salah Abdullah, 23, hijacked a Bulgarian airliner flying from Beirut to the Bulgarian sea resort of Varna on Sept. 2 and ordered the plane to fly to Oslo after releasing the 150 passengers in Varna. He surrendered to Norwegian police after the plane landed and asked for political asylum because he "feared for his life in the Middle East." He was charged with hijacking and remained in custody. Under Norwegian law, hijacking carries a maximum prison sentence of 21 years. Lebanon and Norway are not bound by an extradition accord, but Lebanese Minister of Transportation Omar Miskawi sent a letter to Minister of Justice Bahige Tabbara asking that extradition proceedings be launched. Mr. Miskawi said Abdullah should be repatriated to "sanction him with maximum sentences to safeguard the security of civil aviation in Lebanon." The transportation minister said the "reputation of Beirut airport" was also at stake.

### Two Iranians killed in minefield in Greece

ATHENS (AFP) — Two Iranians were killed and two others injured when they stepped into a minefield after illegally crossing into Greece from Turkey, military sources said Wednesday. The accident took place overnight near Vysa, a village in northeastern Greece, the sources said. Army experts recovered the two wounded men, who were taken to a hospital in the nearby town of Didymoteicho. The sources said the minefield was surrounded by a fence and several warning signs were posted around it.

### Palestinian security chief to meet rabbis

GAZA CITY (AFP) — General Nasser Yousef, the head of public security for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) self-rule government, will meet with Israel's chief rabbis next week at his request, Palestinian officials said Wednesday. "General Yousef asked to meet with chief rabbis Eliahu Bakshi Doron and Israel Lau to wish them a happy new year," the official said. The chief rabbinite confirmed that Mr. Bakshi-Doron, the Sephardic chief rabbi, and his Ashkenazi counterpart Lau would meet with Gen. Yousef in Jerusalem on Tuesday to mark the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashana.

### Arafat appoints media czar

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Yasser Arafat has appointed a Hebron newspaper owner to oversee all television and radio operations of his self-rule authority, it was announced Wednesday. Nabil Amro, a member of the elected Palestinian legislative council and owner-director of the Palestinian daily Al Hayat Al Jadida, was named general director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC). A decree issued by Mr. Arafat said Mr. Amro, 45, would notably "organise relations between private television and radio broadcasters and the Palestinian National Authority." Before the start of Palestinian autonomy in 1994, Mr. Amro was director of all Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) broadcasting companies. His newly-created position as chief of the Palestinian National Authority's radio and television activities put Mr. Amro above Radwan Abu Ayash, president of the PBC, and Hisham Maki, head of Palestinian television. PBC radio broadcasts from the West Bank city of Ramallah, while the self-rule authority's television studios are located in Gaza City. The official broadcasting arm of Mr. Arafat's autonomy government has faced growing competition in recent months from fledgling private operators, mostly located in the West Bank.

### Palestinians dig up more wiretaps

GAZA CITY (AP) — Palestinian police said Wednesday they have dug up more than 10 wiretapping devices they accuse Israel of planting around their Gaza City headquarters. Palestinian authorities have decided to dig beneath all the places used by the Israeli army, an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said the devices, which were connected to telephone wires leading to the police switchboard, were rigged to self-destruct when the power supply was cut. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat ordered a search after police uncovered a similar device on Aug. 28 that exploded when they opened it, killing one officer and injuring another. Police say they uncovered more than 10 devices since Sunday. The Palestinians believe Israel planted the taps before leaving Gaza in 1994. The army had no immediate response to the Palestinian claims. Israeli experts said earlier that Israel did not need such devices, since all Palestinian lines run through the Israeli phone company in Tel Aviv and could be tapped there.

## 2 Israelis escape from Cypriot police

NICOSIA (AFP) — Two Israelis being taken to court by Greek-Cypriot police escaped Wednesday with the help of two armed accomplices on motorcycles and gave themselves up to Turkish-Cypriot authorities, police said.

Two motorcycleists armed with a pistol and a knife stopped a police car taking the handcuffed pair of Israelis from a prison here to court, and freed them, said Stelios Neophytou, a Greek-Cypriot police spokesman.

The ambushers and the two prisoners, Avi Biton, 21, and Spiki Samana, 24, then sped through police and U.N. checkpoints to Turkish-held northern Nicosia through the Ledra Palace crossing, he said.

The group abandoned their motorcycles and threatened U.N. soldiers with knives to run past a barbed wire barrier, a U.N. spokesman said.

They were expected to appear in court in northern Nicosia on Thursday.

The two escaped Israelis, from Haifa, faced charges in government-controlled southern Cyprus of possessing and distributing counterfeit \$100 bills.

They were arrested on Aug. 30 when they tried to exchange fake bills at a bank in the tourist area of Larnaca. Police said they found \$7,100 in fake bills in their possession.

## Netanyahu calls for 'Jewish renaissance'

NEW YORK (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for a "Jewish renaissance" during a speech here late Tuesday before some 1,400 members of American Jewish organisations.

As the 50th anniversary of the Jewish state in 1998 draws near, "what we should do is declare a Jewish renaissance, reforge the bond between the Jewish state and the Jewish people," Mr. Netanyahu said to thunderous applause.

He regrettably said "50 years after the holocaust, the Jewish population has the same size as after World War II — 12 million when it should be 24 or 26 million."

Mr. Netanyahu urged his audience to send their teenagers to Israel where "they can be part of rightist programmes, of leftist programmes, I don't care as long as they come to Israel."

While in New York at the end of a two-day visit to the United States — the second since he was elected May 29 — Mr. Netanyahu paid his respects at the tomb of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the 92-year-old leader of the Lubavitch sect who was killed in 1994.

His tribute, however, did not go down well with some members of leftist Jewish associations who said that, in honouring a rabbi many considered as racist, the prime minister was making concessions to ultra-religious groups supporting his government back home.

Mr. Netanyahu later was guest of honour at a \$7,000-a-plate celebration dinner for

the 40th anniversary of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations, comprising some 50 Jewish groups representing 5.8 million American Jews.

Joining Mr. Netanyahu were Vice President Al Gore and his challenger in the upcoming November presidential elections, Republican Jack Kemp, both of whom used the occasion to press for votes. In 1992, 80 per cent of the Jewish electorate voted for Democrat President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Kemp, a former housing secretary, attacked Mr. Clinton indirectly by recalling "the misguided efforts to pressure Israel to give back the Golan Heights" to Syria.

After his meeting Monday in Washington with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Netanyahu said he was willing to resume peace negotiations, "very quickly" provided Syria did not precondition the talks to an Israeli pullout from the Golan, something Damascus has refused to do.

Mr. Gore, in a speech peppered with Hebrew words and Jewish jokes that drew warm applause, told Mr. Netanyahu that he and Mr. Clinton were "proud to walk now at your side in our shared journey toward peace," while stressing their close relationship with Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor, the late Yitzhak Rabin.

"Historians will recall that Israel had never a better friend... than president Bill Clinton," Mr. Gore said.

Mr. Netanyahu told the audience that "with Jack Kemp and Al Gore, you won't find better friends of Israel."

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 ..... Double Dragon  
15:35 ..... N.B.A. Basketball  
16:35 ..... Take Your Pick  
17:00 ..... News Flash  
17:02 ..... Circus  
17:30 ..... Show — Surprise Sur  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 ..... Magazine — Ushoda  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:33 ..... Here's Lucy — Comedy  
20:00 ..... Tarantula  
21:10 ..... Star Trek — The Next Generation  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:25 ..... Feature Film — "Which Way Home"  
23:59 ..... Comedy — Family Manners

### PRAYER TIMES

04:54 ..... Fajr  
06:13 ..... Sunrise  
12:32 ..... Dhuhr  
16:05 ..... Asr  
18:52 ..... Maghrib  
20:10 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
637785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES

Amman 32, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Bassam Karadshah 759200  
Dr. Ramzi Daboubi 776751  
Dr. Khalid Abdo 657129  
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy 637035  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Najib pharmacy 847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh 250080  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi 989601  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417  
EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192 621111  
637777  
Fire Brigade 617101  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 343402

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
A heat wave is expected to affect the Kingdom, so temperatures are expected to rise gradually becoming 3-5 degrees centigrade above average and winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Amman 18/34  
Aqaba 24/38  
Deserts 16/37  
Jordan Valley 23/38  
Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 32, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:25 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:25 ..... London (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Larnaka (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Dharan (add) (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
22:20 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)  
Other Flights  
12:00 ..... Sanaa (IY)  
12:15 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
14:40 ..... Sharqah (AH)  
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
20:55 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)  
21:40 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
23:25 ..... London (KL)  
23:40 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200 where it should always be verified.  
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08 (53250).

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Dharan (RJ)  
10:05 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
10:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
10:35 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Moscow (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Casablanca (RJ)  
17:30 ..... London (RJ)  
17:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:15 ..... Athens (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
20:25 ..... Rome (RJ)  
00:15 ..... Larnaka (RJ)  
01:45 ..... Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)  
02:59 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
03:15 ..... Dharan (add) (RJ)  
Other Flights  
07:45 ..... Beirut, London (BA)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
15:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:30 ..... Algiers (AH)  
21:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
22:15 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:55 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
00:40 ..... Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
06:40 ..... London (KJ)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (mulhammar) ..... 520/520  
Banana (imported) ..... 780/500  
Carrot ..... 330/160  
Cauliflower ..... 600/350  
Cucumber (large) ..... 170/100  
Cucumber (small) ..... 320/180  
Eggplant ..... 240/150  
Fig ..... 300/200  
Garlic ..... 700/450  
Grapes ..... 420/300  
Lemon ..... 400/300  
Marrow (large) ..... 180/120  
Marrow (small) ..... 340/200  
Mulukhiyah ..... 110/70  
Onion (dry) ..... 160/90  
Okra ..... 1100/700  
Pea ..... 700/500  
Pepper (hot) ..... 340/250  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 380/250  
Plum ..... 650/400  
Pomegranate ..... 380/250  
Potato ..... 250/150  
String Bean ..... 880/550  
Sweet melon ..... 400/300  
Tomato ..... 210/120

### OTHER FLIGHTS

07:45 ..... Beirut, London (BA)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)  
15:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
15:30 ..... Algiers (AH)  
21:25 ..... Cairo (MS)  
22:15 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:55 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)  
00:40 ..... Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
06:40 ..... London (KJ)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50 ..... Aqaba (RW)

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, September 12-13, 1996

What's

EX

Summer '96

Photographs

Khamisat

Mosaic

Performance by A

and Thomas Hy

at 9:00 p.m.

MUSICAL PERFOI

Performance by A

and Thomas Hy

at 9:00 p.m.

WORKS BY ARTISTS

Shawarwa, and Egypt

Arabic Cultural Ce

Brought-iron exh

on (Tel. 736444)



# Home News

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, September 12-13, 1996

3



HRH Princess Basma addresses an assembly of representatives of NGOs and urges them to maintain close ties (Petra photo)

## Women follow up on Beijing

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Wednesday chaired a meeting of representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and urged them to maintain close cooperation in order to implement resolutions and recommendations approved by the World Conference on Women, held in Beijing last September.

At the meeting, the various organisations presented their plans which have a projected implementation date of the year 2000 and have been adapted in a manner suitable to the Beijing conference recommen-

dations. Praising the role of the foreign organisations, Princess Basma, who led the Jordanian delegation to the Beijing conference, said that those organisations promote activities amenable to the amelioration of women's status and participation in public life. The Princess stated that the National Jordanian Committee for Women, (NJCW) in cooperation with participating NGOs, will prepare a report to be submitted to the pan-Arab NGO meeting to be held in Amman on Sept. 22. The stated intention of the

report is to provide a description of activities and programmes of all NGOs in the Arab World. Ms. Haifaa Bashir, a member of the NJCW, outlined the main topics to be included in the summation of the Arab World organisations, which are as follows: measures to fight poverty, the promotion of equality between the sexes, improvements to health and other basic services, the diminishing of violence against women, the consequences to women of armed conflict, and the role of the media in reporting on women's issues.

## Jordan, Israel to further water talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel has positively responded to the issue of the export of 50 million cubic metres (mcm) of water stipulated under the terms of the 1994 peace treaty and Jordanian and Israeli teams will soon convene talks to work on the issue, Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Katar announced Wednesday.

During his first official visit to Jordan in early August, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged that his government will initiate serious steps towards resolving the water question with Jordan.

Israel, which controls common water resources, has failed to provide Jordan with an extra 50 mcm of water this year as outlined under the peace treaty.

However, Mr. Katar said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday that serious bilateral talks will soon help implement the provisions of the peace treaty's supplements which deal with water apportionment.

Mr. Katar stated that as Israel and Jordan are activating the peace agreements there is no foreseen

able reason for Israel to object to the construction of the Al-Wahdah dam on the Yarmouk River, which adjoins three borders: Jordan, Syria and Israel. Last month, a joint Jordanian-Syrian panel met in Damascus to reiterate a 1987 commitment to build the dam on the Yarmouk River, a branch of the Jordan River. Mr. Katar said that work on the dam "which was originally scheduled to be constructed in 1992 was postponed due to lack of funds which were then estimated at \$450 million. Jordan and Syria were to have obtained the funding from the World Bank but Israeli objections to the construction plan prevented the implementation of the project," said Mr. Katar. "Since the Yarmouk River runs along the borders of the three countries they all must concede approval for the construction of the dam but now that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty is in effect Israel is unlikely to object to the project," he said. Last month, Israeli Environment and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eytan criti-

cised the Jordanian-Syrian project as a violation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty. Meanwhile Wednesday Mr. Katar signed a JD 15,657 million deal with a consortium of Jordanian and German firms to construct a wastewater treatment plant benefiting the greater Irbid region and capable of serving 244,000 citizens. At the signing ceremony, Mr. Katar emphasised the ministry's bid to balance a concern for environmental protection with the needs of a growing population in its provision of sanitary services. According to Mr. Katar, the German Development Bank will provide a loan to cover 70 per cent of the total cost of the project, with the balance to be paid by the state treasury. He said that the plant is slated for construction at Wadi Al Arab nearly 15 kilometres northwest of Irbid and will potentially be able to treat 20,800 cubic metres daily. The project will be implemented in 730 days.

## Senator joins hands with Muslim clergy to ensure equal legal treatment for women

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A leading Muslim cleric and a women human rights activist Tuesday night criticised the current law by pointing to several articles in the laws which, she felt, needed to be amended to secure more rights for women. "This law is descriptive and it does not fully enfranchise women as does the Sharia (Islamic Law)," she explained. "We want to enact a law which is not partial to men, but treats all parties as equal under the law," she continued. Arbitrary divorce is one of the main problems which threatens women's security. "We have many cases of women who have spent 20 or 30 years with their hus-

bands only to find themselves suddenly divorced and with no suitable means of support." In the current civil law, the husband is obliged to pay alimony for one year. A current draft law has amended this suggestion to a five-year duration. "One year or five is not enough to compensate their wives. I am proposing that the woman be granted an alimony until she remarries," the senator said. The legal age of marriage should be amended, Ms. Rashdan explained, allowing couples to marry young. The legal age for marriage for males is 16 and for females it is 15 years of age. "Marriage is a big responsibility, so is this a suitable age for someone to get mar-

ried?" asked Ms. Rashdan. She also suggested amending the law whereby in the case a woman is divorced, the divorce be concluded in front of a judge, giving the judge the right to rule on such matters as alimony and child custody. Under the existing law, a man has the right to divorce his wife with neither her knowledge nor her presence in court. "Women are usually the disadvantaged side as they are often not financially solvent and so this procedure will save them a lot of time and effort," she said. Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khaib Al Tamimi, the Royal advisor on religious affairs, also spoke at the lecture and said the Civil Status Law was based on the principles of Sharia and the interpreta-

tions made by the Ulama (scholars). "The current civil law has its own philosophy, bases and goals and is linked to the Islamic Sharia," Sheikh Tamimi explained. He added that the Jordanian legislation created the civil law by adopting different interpretations of Islamic scholars. He added that the basic principles include marriage and the family, which Sheikh Tamimi said are two of the fundamental tenets in Islam. And yet Senator Rashdan insisted that when the draft law is revised, new articles should be taken from the Sharia to insure equal justice in front of the law. "If it is necessary to change any article in the Civil Status Law, we hold no complaint against it," Sheikh Tamimi told the gathering.

## French win 10.8m contract to build silo

AMMAN (Petra) — The French Corporation Gerico France has won a JD 10.8 million contract from the Ministry of Supply to build a 100,000 tonne capacity grain silo near Irbid to serve the northern regions.

Minister of Supply Munir Sobar Wednesday signed the deal with the company's general manager, Pascal Dard and said that 52 per cent of the project will be financed by a French loan to Jordan while the rest will be covered by the state treasury.

"Under the terms of the agreement, in 450 days Gerico France will commence implementation of the project in conjunction with a consortium of French and Jordanian companies," said Mr. Sobar.

"The current grain silo in the north has a capacity of 50,000 tonnes and the new one will have double that number, raising the combined capacities of the country's silos to 455,000 tonnes," the minister added.

The new project will cater to present and future grain storage needs in an attempt to accommodate natural population growth in the north and is expected to facilitate government purchases and storage of grain in the silos.

French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajot stated that his government had granted Jordan a loan of 40 million French francs to help finance the project as part of French efforts to support the national economy.

## Thesis promotes diversification of Amman urban structure

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is moving towards adopting and implementing sound regional and city planning but it has to step up the pace to be successful in coping with the requirements of the natural growth of its urban and rural centres. This is one of the key assertions of a doctorate thesis on human settlement submitted by a Jordanian student at the Kiev University for Architecture.

Majdah Yakhlef, who worked at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment for three years before enrolling in the university, argues that the situation behoves a sweeping change in the mind set of planners which should be further supported by political decisions to succeed in streamlining conditions in Jordan in terms of regional and city planning.

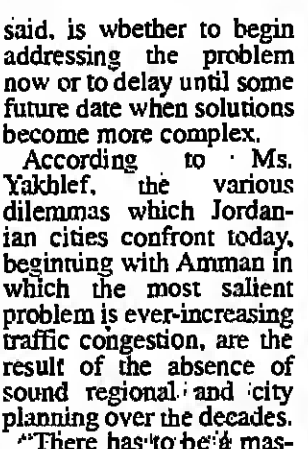
"First of all there have to be political decisions," Ms. Yakhlef told the Jordan Times. She agreed that regional and city planning comes with its price for society and the government, but maintained that without such plans both society and the government will face more problems that they are capable of solving.

The key question, she said, is whether to begin addressing the problem now or to delay until some future date when solutions become more complex.

According to Ms. Yakhlef, the various dilemmas which Jordanian cities confront today, beginning with Amman in which the most salient problem is ever-increasing traffic congestion, are the result of the absence of sound regional and city planning over the decades.

"There has to be a master plan," she said. "Without such a plan there can be no streamlining of the situation that we face today."

One of the key means to do so, she continued, is to "decentralise" Amman and regulate its growth. This would mean moving some of the government departments, courts, and related offices to other than their current locations. This would also serve the goal of development in other areas. "This should have been done years ago, but it is not yet too late," she said. "[However] if measures are not taken now, then there will be chaos in a few years' time and the process of streamlining will become very complex, particularly as the relative underdevelopment of the outlying areas automatically produces migration from the rural areas to urban centres."



Majdah Yakhlef

In her thesis, Ms. Yakhlef writes: "It is obvious that high standards of social and general economic development in any country make real natural phenomena less influential in regional division. Rural elements have a far more prominent position in structural regional building." Jordan is classified into four distinct regions: the north, the capital and suburbs, the central areas and the south. Amman, Salt and Zarqa are often jointly affiliated. Parallel to a "decentralisation" of Amman, there should be strict enforcement of rules related to the classification of land in and around the capital, she said and cited an example. "If the rules were actually enforced, one would not locate the Fifth Circle area where it is today

because the plots there were classified as agricultural land," she told the Jordan Times. Ms. Yakhlef blamed "connections" which landlords maintain with the authorities concerned for what she saw as gross encroachments of zoning regulations. "When it comes to such a vital issue as regional and city planning, no consideration should be given to personal interests, and laws and regulations must be strictly enforced," she said. "If there is no strict enforcement of the laws and regulations, then the problem can only continue to grow to a point where resolutions will either no longer exist or they will no longer be economically feasible." In fact, she added, sound city and regional planning through a master plan would cost the government much less than it does today when various ministries and department are actually duplicating each other's work. "At the same time, I am very encouraged to note that the authorities have moved towards a master plan, but I believe the pace of the move should be accelerated," said Ms. Yakhlef.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "Farid Belkadia" at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

\* Performance by American Jazz duo James Linahon and Thomas Hynes at Al Qasr Hotel on Thursday at 9:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh (including sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

\* Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

\* Wrought-iron exhibition by Salim Bandak at Kan Zaman (Tel. 736449), until Sept. 15.

## Defendants say police shot French diplomat

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two men accused of shooting and wounding a French envoy in the Wadi Mujib area last year, Wednesday told the criminal court that they had been framed and that "it was the police who shot the French diplomat." Salem Abdullah Jaradat and Ahmad Qassem are standing trial at the criminal court on charges of the attempted murder of the former secretary at the French embassy, Gilles Heine on Feb. 24, 1995. Testifying in front of the court, the defendants, both 22, claimed they were framed by security forces and that their confessions were elicited under duress. "We were struggling with the French [diplomat], and the police were shooting in our direction, and when they saw that he was hit by one of their bullets, they

charged us with the shooting incident," they told the court. The two men claimed to have been hunting birds in the Wadi Mujib area and stated that when they went to the rest area a police unit in the vicinity asked them to stop. "But as we were carrying an unlicensed gun with us we chose to run — we did not want to get in trouble with the police," they maintained. They said they came across the French couple and asked them for a ride, but instead "the French man (Mr. Heine) started struggling with us as he misunderstood our intention." The French couple was visiting a tourist scene in Wadi Mujib when the incident occurred. The defence attorneys presented a medical report indicating that the bullet fired at Mr. Heine was not

shot from their client's gun. The two defendants, a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, are also standing trial at the State Security Court on charges of plotting to carry out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives and manufacturing hand-made explosives. According to the charge sheet, the two allegedly started planning to target tourists who visited Wadi Mujib in 1994. The document said that they made explosive devices and wanted to overpower a tourist bus in that area, but that their plans were deterred by the presence of security forces in the area. Presiding Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq postponed the case for Sept. 30 to hear the defence and prosecutor general's closing arguments.

## Seminar to combine business savvy with environment concerns

By Samir Hijawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some 80 chief executive officers and managing directors of leading industries and public enterprises in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Friday are gathering at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman for a discussion of ways that business and industry can improve their economic and environmental performance. The four-day meeting to be held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is being organised by the Geneva-based International Academy of the Environment together with the Sustainable Business Associates (SBA), according to Karim Zein, SBA president. He told the Jordan Times that the meeting is the first of its kind to be held in the Middle East and is part of a programme known as DELTA (Developing Environmental Leadership Towards Action) and will be organised under the theme of "Catalysing Business and Industry to Take Action on the Environment." Through workshops, which have been slated to take place throughout the next two years in the Near East, North Africa, the Gulf States, as well as Europe,

DELTA will mobilise a broad range of actions on the part of local business and industry and stimulate collaboration in tackling environmental challenges, said Mr. Zein. He also stated that delegates will debate the pressures exerted on industrialists and business communities to comply with global standards and specifications designed to protect the environment. He said that the meeting, which will combine the expertise of 24 economy, finance, banking and management specialists from Europe, is expected to orient the participants on how environmental leadership can enhance competitiveness, open new market opportunities and avoid extraneous business risks. The Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) will participate in the meeting. Mr. Zein said that the Amman gathering is expected to result in the creation of a DELTA Near East Network and will set the framework for action and follow-up activities in the region.



# U.N. approves anti-nuclear treaty; signing to begin soon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Decades after protests and debates against the atom bomb, the General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed a treaty banning nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, underground or in any other environment.

"This was a treaty sought by ordinary people everywhere, and today the power of that universal wish could not be denied," U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the 185-seat Assembly Tuesday.

The 158 to 3 vote calls for the document, known as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty or CTBT, to be open for signature by individual nations. President Bill Clinton, who cancelled further U.S. tests in 1993, plans to sign the treaty at the United Nations on Sept. 24, U.S. officials said.

But the treaty does not enter into force before 44 countries with nuclear power reactors sign the document and ratify it through their parliaments. Nevertheless, experts believe that their signature alone oblig-

ates nations to abide by the treaty's provisions.

"How easy would it be now for anyone to conduct a nuclear test?" said Australia's ambassador, Richard Butler, who is credited with organising the lopsided vote.

In Washington, a senior U.S. official said Mr. Clinton intends to ask the Senate for approval as soon as possible but not deposit final ratification papers until the other seven known or undeclared nuclear states do so.

"Pakistan will watch India, India will watch China and China will watch Russia, who in turn will be watched by the United States, Britain and France and nobody is going to leave Israel out," he said.

"The eight are not going to dribble in one at a time."

All five declared nuclear weapons states have imposed voluntary moratoriums on testing. The United States, Russia and Britain stopped testing between 1990 and 1992 while France and China ended blasts only

several months ago.

Three other non-declared nuclear states are believed to have covert nuclear programmes — India, Pakistan and Israel.

India has vetoed the treaty in the Geneva-based conference on disarmament which negotiated the pact and has vowed to block it from becoming international law. Pakistan indicated it would not sign until India did. Israel supports the pact.

Only Libya and Bhutan supported India in casting a negative vote in the assembly. Five other countries — Cuba, Lebanon, Mauritius, Syria and Tanzania — abstained and another 19 nations were absent or could not vote.

Indian delegates told the Assembly that their government would prevent the treaty from ever becoming law, mainly because the nuclear powers refused to set any kind of timetable for ridding themselves of their atomic arsenals.

Many other delegates agreed with India's criticism but decided the treaty

needed to be supported anyway. Said Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif: "We are left with one choice — a choice between having a flawed treaty or abandoning the treaty altogether an unwanted choice indeed."

But India's delegate, Arundhati Ghose, did not mince words. "I would like to declare on the floor of this august assembly that India will never sign this unequal treaty — not now, not later. As long as this text contains this article."

This treaty will never enter into force," she said in reference to India's being named as one of the 44 nations who had to ratify the treaty.

Australia's Butler speculated that Ms. Ghose's comments left some room for manoeuvre in future discussions on the treaty. If not enough states ratify the pact within three years, a review conference will be held to discuss steps members could take to make the treaty international law.



President Bill Clinton waves to the crowd before making an address at the Gateway Middle School in St. Louis Tuesday (Reuter photo)

## Clinton lashes Dole in ads; Perot selects running mate

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Tuesday lashed out at Bob Dole in two television commercials, while Texas billionaire Ross Perot introduced a little-known anti-free trade economist as his running mate.

Mr. Perot said during a half-hour television campaign ad that Mr. Choate, an academic and determined critic of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), was an expert on economic policy and would play a key role in his campaign.

"He knows the system. He knows what's wrong with it. We agree what's wrong with it. His views are your views out there across America," said Mr. Perot, who is running for the fledgling Reform Party he founded and financed from his own pocket.

With Mr. Perot trailing in the polls at around five per cent, his failure to persuade a national figure to run with him on his ticket unlikely to revitalise his prospects.

In other developments, Sen. Dole, who is also looking for a shot in the arm, arranged a meeting with Republican members of Congress Wednesday to steady nerves about his and his election prospects.

The latest CNN/USA Today tracking poll showed Mr. Clinton's lead over Sen. Dole unchanged at a substantial 21 percentage points.

But Mr. Clinton is not sitting on his lead. He stayed on the offensive with a new advertisement attacking Sen. Dole for opposing the popular Family and Medical Leave Act, which allows employees to take unpaid time off for family emergencies.

"Bob Dole led a six-year fight against family leave. Twelve million have used leave but Dole's still against it," the commercial says.

Sen. Dole campaign spokeswoman Christina Martin reacted indignantly, calling the advertisement a "moral outrage...nasty and spiteful."

A second advertisement decried Sen. Dole for raising taxes throughout his career. "Bob Dole: 35 years in Washington, 35 years of higher taxes," an announcer declares.

Sen. Dole last weekend denounced the Family Leave Act as unwarranted government intrusion and said the federal government should leave such matters to states and local communities to regulate.

Campaigning in Kansas City Tuesday, Mr. Clinton rejected Sen. Dole's criticism. "I just respectfully disagree. I think we were right to do it. It's not a big radical step. It's pro-family and pro-work," the president said.

Sen. Dole's meeting with congressional Republicans was clearly designed to calm fears that the Nov. 5 election is shaping up as a disaster for the party.

Republican leaders put a positive spin on the meeting. Senate majority leader Trent Lott said its purpose was to discuss the legislative agenda and receive a briefing on the presidential campaign.

"I think there's plenty of time for them to get their message of economic growth out to the public... I think there's a long way

between now and the election in November and I'm counting on a very competitive campaign," Sen. Lott said.

Mr. Perot got 19 per cent of the vote in 1992 but is currently trailing with about five per cent in the polls, making his participation in upcoming presidential debates open to doubt.

Dole and Clinton campaign officials plan to hold their first negotiating session Thursday to discuss the rules of the debates, the first of which is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 25 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Meanwhile the Independent Commission on Presidential Debates will announce next Monday whether it believes Mr. Perot should take part. Its recommendations, while not binding on the campaigns, will carry substantial weight.

The commission is proposing three presidential debates and one between vice presidential candidates on four successive Wednesdays starting on Sept. 25.

Sen. Dole spent the day in Louisiana trying to shore up his southern Republican base. He pushed his 15 per cent income tax cut and blamed Mr. Clinton for increased drug use by teenagers.

At a rally in the small Louisiana town of Baker, Sen. Dole derided Mr. Clinton's claim that another four years of his Democratic administration would be a bridge to a brighter American future.

"Which bridge to the future is right for America? My opponent would build a bridge of higher taxes and more teenagers using drugs, of a government-run health care system, more liberal judges, an economy producing fewer jobs and more and more and more government," Sen. Dole said.

## Colombian vice-president resigns

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Colombia's vice president resigned Tuesday, saying President Ernesto Samper's alleged ties to drug barons had undermined the government's credibility and was tearing the country apart.

Humberto De La Calle, who declared open rebellion against Mr. Samper by demanding his resignation last week, announced his departure from the vice presidency in a letter to Senate President Luis Fernando Lozano in Bogotá Tuesday.

The letter, dated Sept. 8, warned that Colombia "appears to be falling to pieces" in the face of a sharp economic slowdown and unprecedented surge in left-wing guerrilla activity that a weak central government seemed barely able to contain.

"The crisis situation the country is living through is unusually grave. The backdrop, the principal cause... is the lack of credibility affecting the president for reasons that are known to everyone," his letter said.

"The deteriorating national situation leads one to think that what is at stake here is the social and democratic viability of the nation."

Mr. De La Calle urged Senate leader to consider his call for a government of "National Unity" to lead Colombia out of its deepening crisis. But he conceded that Mr. Samper "has decided that he should continue (in power) despite the serious



Colombian Vice-President Humberto De La Calle talks to the press about his resignation in a hotel in Bogotá, Mr. De La Calle resigned Tuesday (Reuter photo)

ills that Colombia is suffering."

In an interview with the RCN Radio Network, before making his formal resignation announcement, Mr. De La Calle urged the embattled Samper to follow in his footsteps for the good of the nation. "I'm sacrificing myself and hope the president will do the same," he said.

He said the government's loss of credibility because of charges that Mr. Samper used millions of dollars in drug money to finance his 1994 election campaign was irreparable and he was "personally disgusted" by what happened during the campaign.

"What sort of morale can we ask of the security forces when there's a credibility crisis at the top of the executive branch?" Mr. De La Calle asked.

One of the most powerful offensives by leftist rebels in decades has humiliated Colombia's military in the last two weeks and sparked widespread concerns that insurgents are gaining the upper hand after more than 30 years of war.

In his letter to the Senate, Mr. De La Calle said: "Guerrilla groups have become a force that in the short term it doesn't seem realistic to even think about defeating." He said the government seemed barely able to contain the rebel advance.

Mr. De La Calle, a political ally of former President Cesar Gaviria, has been unscathed by the campaign finance scandal.

He became Mr. Samper's running mate after losing to him in a primary but has never been considered close to Mr. Samper and had little to do with his campaign.

He was appointed Colombia's ambassador to Spain soon after the election — a job that he held concurrently with the largely ceremonial post of vice president — but resigned in July and returned home last week after a Florida vacation.

Mr. Samper, who has resisted repeated calls for his resignation, has appeared unfazed by Mr. De La Calle's public break with him so far. He huddled with leaders of the ruling Liberal Party shortly after Mr. De La Calle resigned and aides said he would move quickly to name a replacement.

## 'Hutus' kill 15 as Burundi reels over archbishop's murder

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Hutu rebels killed 15 people in an attack and a separate ambush, the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army announced Wednesday as the country reeled over the assassination of its archbishop.

Army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isidore Nibizi said that the rebels Tuesday attacked an army post where displaced people had taken refuge at Gara in the northwestern Bubanza province.

A soldier, seven civilians and six of the rebels were killed. Col. Nibizi said, while three soldiers and eight civilians were injured in the raid.

Bubanza is one of the most troubled provinces in the small central African nation, where ethnic strife between extremists of the Hutu majority and the army has claimed more than 150,000 lives in three years, according to Amnesty International.

In a separate attack, Hutu rebels ambushed two vehicles on the main RN1 Highway near Bugarama, 35 kilometres east of Bujumbura, killing a civilian and wounding another, as well as injuring a soldier who was escorting the vehicles.

Soldiers were still searching Wednesday for the body of Burundi's Roman Catholic archbishop, Joachim Ruhuna, Col. Nibizi told AFP two days after the cleric was assassinated in an ambush which sent shockwaves throughout the country.

A vehicle carrying Ruhuna and six other people was attacked Monday evening in the centre of this highland nation.

The army reported that a deacon said he found the car ablaze shortly after the attack, with the bodies of the archbishop and a nun burning inside.

He said he pulled the bodies out and went for help, but that the archbishop's body had disappeared by the time he returned.

Col. Nibizi said the body of another nun and a woman accountant had been recovered, but that the other three people in the vehicle — two high school girls and the driver — were still missing.

The army blamed the attack on Arch. Ruhuna, a Tutsi who outspokenly condemned violence by all parties to the conflict, on rebels. The guerrillas accused the army of carrying it out.

## Diana angered by archbishop's 'actress and schemer' jibe

LONDON (R) — Britain's Princess Diana has accused the former head of the Church of England of "treachery" after he described her as an actress and schemer, a newspaper said Wednesday.

The Daily Mirror, a popular tabloid, said the princess vented her anger against former Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie at a private party.

"I'm appalled. I'll never forgive him for this. It's particularly upsetting because I've always held him in the greatest esteem. I thought he was a supporter of my position in my divorce and a personal friend. It's treachery," she reportedly told friends.

In a series of taped interviews that formed a biography released Monday, Arch. Runcie, who married Princess Diana at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1981, said he saw early cracks in the marriage long before they became public.

Princess Diana also claimed that Arch. Runcie

had doublecrossed her before by leaking details of a personal meeting she and her ex-husband had with him before they were married.

"Prince Charles was absolutely furious. He said he felt we had been betrayed. I was very upset myself," the newspaper quoted her as saying.

In the interviews which were taped three years ago, Arch. Runcie also spoke about Princess Diana's grandmother Lady Ruth Fermoy, "Ruth was very distressed with Princess Diana's behaviour... She (Ruth) was totally and wholly a Charles person... and regarded Princess Diana as an actress, a schemer — all of which is true, of course," he said.

"I don't know what will become of her. Sad really, and I feel a desire to support her," Arch. Runcie added.

The biography, published less than a month after the couple's divorce, has caused a sensation. In the book Arch.

Runcie said he thought the royal marriage had been arranged.

"We thought it was an arranged marriage but my view was, 'they're a nice couple and she'll grow into it,'" said Arch. Runcie.

Arch. Runcie also said he knew about Prince Charles's relationship with old flame Camilla Parker Bowles, adding "that was what worried Ruth Fermoy, about his needing a woman to love and be cared for by. And also that Princess Diana would never be under control until she fell in love with someone."

The man who led the Church of England for 11 years, from 1980 to 1991, has expressed unhappiness about what he says were private comments finding their way into the biography called The Reluctant Archbishop.

## Former Clinton aide evaded White House confidentiality agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Clinton campaign strategist Dick Morris hid his plan to write a lucrative book by evading a White House agreement that he not disclose what he learned as an insider, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The newspaper quoted knowledgeable sources as saying Mr. Morris signed a White House confidentiality agreement in 1995, but almost immediately began negotiations with Random House to write a book about his experiences in the campaign.

When his 1995 contract expired, Mr. Morris swiftly made a secret \$2.5 million deal to write the book and then resisted signing a new employment agreement.

Mr. Morris abruptly resigned as top strategist in President Bill Clinton's

re-election campaign two weeks ago when a \$200-an-hour Washington call-girl said in an interview with the Star, a supermarket tabloid, that she had had a year-long affair with him. She said his pillow talk had included plenty of inside White House gossip.

The Post said officials in the White House learned of Mr. Morris's book deal only when the Star quoted her as saying Mr. Morris was regularly making notes for a forthcoming book.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Morris as saying that he was not under contract to the Clinton campaign when he made the deal with Random House and had no obligation to reveal his plans until next year under any legally binding disclosure rule.

The Post quoted one Democratic strategist as saying Mr. Morris repeatedly refused to sign a new employment contract with the campaign after his 1995 contract expired on Dec. 31.

He signed a deal with Random House less than two weeks later on Jan. 12, the newspaper said.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry told the Post Mr. Morris never revealed that he was working on a book and he maintained that the consultant was obliged to come forward with the information voluntarily.

The Post also quoted Random House publisher Harold Evans saying it didn't bother him to acquire a book under such circumstances. "If there are any problems here, not me," he told the paper in an interview.

## Schoenberg archive to end up in Berlin

BERLIN (AFP) — The Schoenberg Institute, comprising virtually the whole legacy of composer Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951), is to move to Berlin from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. The Berlin Regional Government decided Tuesday to house the collection, containing the composer's handwritten scores, correspondence and library, in a new building on the Potsdamer Platz. The archive's value is estimated at between \$33 and \$48 million, and Berlin was in competition with Vienna, the Hague and the U.S. universities of Harvard and Yale to play host to it.

## Cartoonist talks Clinton into caricaturing himself

ST. LOUIS (R) — President Bill Clinton drew his own caricature at the behest of Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Mike Luckovich, depicting himself as "a typical politician... saying one thing and thinking another." Mr. Clinton came up with a reasonable likeness, complete with bags under his eyes and a thought balloon to his left reading: "How did I ever get talked into this. Maybe Luckovich should be president." On the right side of the drawing Mr. Clinton showed himself saying: "Hey, Mike. Now I feel my pain I'm no good at this."

Mr. Luckovich inspected the drawing and quipped, "Now I can understand why he's working so hard to keep his day job."

## Pavarotti may be too pricey for Hong Kong's 1997 party

HONG KONG (R) — China is rethinking plans to invite Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti to Hong Kong's 1997 handover celebrations because he's so expensive, a newspaper reported. Organisers were reconsidering plans to feature Pavarotti and magician David Copperfield in the handover party because they wanted at least 7 million Hong Kong dollars (\$897,000) each to perform, the South China Morning Post said. Negotiations for Copperfield had started with his request for more than \$7 million and Pavarotti wanted "even more than that," the paper quoted Raymond Wu, a member of the Chinese committee overseeing Hong Kong's return to Beijing.

## Hugh Grant hooker held on prostitution charges

LAS VEGAS (R) — Divine Brown, the Hollywood hooker made famous after she was arrested engaging in a sex act with British actor Hugh Grant, has been arrested again on prostitution charges, Las Vegas police said. Ms. Brown was arrested at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in a "sting" operation by vice squad officers, police said. She was charged with loitering for the purpose of prostitution, aiding and abetting prostitution and resisting arrest.

## U.S. rescuers find that 'stranded' whale is plastic

KEY WEST, Florida (R) — The U.S. Coast Guard responded with typical speed when the call came that a "killer whale" was stuck on a Key West beach, sending a crew aboard an inflatable boat to search for the stranded mammal. However, all they recovered was a four-foot-long (six-metre) plastic whale with the word "Shamu" written on its side. Shamu is the name of a killer whale that stars at a popular ocean-themed park.

World

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le Pen

le Pen (AFP) — France's far-right leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, was officially barred from running in the upcoming legislative elections. The ban was imposed by the Constitutional Council, which ruled that Le Pen's racist and xenophobic statements violated the French constitution.



## China's top brass urged to send warships to Diaoyu Islands

BEIJING (Agencies) — More than 100 Chinese nationalists Wednesday urged China's top military leaders to send warships to the disputed Diaoyu Islands to tear down structures built by Japanese rightists.

"We will not hesitate to safeguard her (the Diaoyu) with our blood and lives," reads a copy of a letter that seven nationalists in Beijing sent to Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin and the four vice-chairmen of the party's Central Military Commission.

Nationalists from six provinces also sent letters to the military leaders calling for warships to escort residents of China, Taiwan or Hong Kong heading for the Diaoyus, a group of small, uninhabited islands in the East China Sea claimed by Beijing, Tokyo and Taipei.

Japanese Coast Guard ships have kept several Taiwanese boats away from the islands in recent days. Angry Taiwanese lawmakers have urged their government to deploy military forces to assert its claim in the escalating sovereignty dispute with Japan.

The seven Chinese who signed the Beijing letter included leading playwright Wu Zuguang, London-based World War II correspondent Xiao Qian, and retired General Huang Yuzhou, who fought invading Japanese troops from 1937-45.

Copies of the letters were sent by fax to Reuters.

The response of China's military commission, which is headed by party chief and state President Jiang, was not immediately available.

A group of Hong Kong activists, members of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, are in Beijing to present a petition signed by 15,000 people urging the government to get tough on Japan's

claim to the islands.

On Tuesday, Beijing lodged a strong protest with Tokyo and called in its charge d'affaires in Beijing, warning of serious damage to bilateral ties if Japan failed to stop its rightists from setting foot on the islands.

China said Japan must not allow the structures built by the nationalists to remain on the islands.

The islands, known in Japanese as the Senkakus, lie east of China's southeastern Fujian coast, west of Japan's Okinawa Island and northeast of Taiwan.

Disputes over the islands resurfaced in recent months after the Japanese nationalists built a lighthouse and a war memorial on the islands in an attempt to bolster Tokyo's claim to them, sparking a wave of protests by Chinese across the region.

Members of the Nihon Seinen-Sha (Japan Youth Federation) sailed to the

islands Monday and repaired the makeshift aluminium lighthouse, which was damaged by a typhoon last month.

Tokyo has supported the group's moves, mobilising patrol boats to repel private Taiwan vessels that have tried to reach the islands in recent days.

Japan's persistent moves to assert sovereignty over the islands have angered Chinese in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, uniting the region despite political differences.

University students in Beijing have applied to police for permission to stage a demonstration, but authorities have been reluctant to approve the application and were trying to placate the students, a Chinese source has said.

The Taiwanese government came under increased pressure Wednesday over its handling of Japan's claim to the island.

Ex-co-opts joined groups of h...ives and students at two Taipei train stations to sign an anti-Japanese petition, while a campaign to boycott Japanese products is brewing.

"President Lee Teng-Hui is a turtle, not daring to defend Taiwan's rightful claim over Diaoyu Island. He is afraid of the Japanese," said the director of the Reformed Convicts Centre.

Mr. Lee has appealed for calm and a peaceful settlement of the issue but even some right-wing MPs have called for a force to be sent to the islands.

Stella Chen, an opposition Democratic Progressive Party National Assembly member, is joining with ruling Kuomintang colleagues to send a 100-vessel protest flotilla to the islands on Sept. 21.

"The government must take a tougher stance instead of making soft statements," she said.



Demonstrators burn a model of a Japanese warship outside the Japanese Consulate in Hong Kong Wednesday. The demonstrators were protesting Japan's claims over a group of islands in the East China Sea known as the Senkakus in Japan and the Diaoyus in China (Reuters photo)

## Computers may help communicate with coma patients

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — British scientists have said they were starting experiments that could help doctors communicate with people in comas.

Steve Roberts and colleagues at London's Imperial College of Science and Technology said he hoped to use a "hairnet" of electrodes, connected to a computer, to "read" an unconscious person's thoughts.

"There are a lot of people who have had severe injury, come out of coma and tell of a nightmare situation of being conscious of their surroundings but utterly unable to communicate in any way," Mr. Roberts told a news conference.

"It is hoped in a lot of these cases patients will be able to respond to this analysis and we would be able to assist their rehabilitation out of coma. There's even a glimmer of hope that we might be able to say 'there's someone in there,' which will be of some comfort to the patient."

Mr. Roberts, speaking at the British Association for the Advancement of Science annual festival in Birmingham, said he had already done tests on conscious volunteers in which the computer predicted, with 80 per cent accuracy, when they were about to move their fingers.

Mr. Roberts said he could ask the coma patients to think about moving a finger. If they could hear, they could think and the computer could pick this up. It could be used to set up a simple "yes or no" type of communication system, he said.

## Indonesian opposition leader holds party meeting at new headquarters

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri Wednesday held a meeting with party officials from across the country, despite the lack of official recognition of her faction.

"This meeting is to consolidate and have one perception from all the branches and to receive reports from the regions," Ms. Megawati told reporters at her new headquarters in East Jakarta which officially opened last week.

The meeting, attended by members of the Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) representing all but one of the country's 27 provinces, was the first since her ouster as party leader by a government-backed splinter faction in June.

"The branches reported that grass-roots support for my leadership has remained unchanged despite constant intimidation from the authorities," a tired and tense Megawati said.

Ms. Megawati also met Wednesday with 18 representatives of non-governmental organisations from the United States, the Philippines, Thailand, Germany, Hong Kong and South Korea, one of the delegates said.

He would not elaborate on the discussions.

Indonesian government and military officials have said she is no longer the leader of the PDI and that her party activities are "unlawful."

The removal of Ms. Megawati, daughter of popular founding President Sukarno, from the former PDI headquarters triggered rioting in Jakarta on July 27, which has been followed by a government crackdown on political opponents.

Ms. Megawati is contesting her ouster as PDI chairwoman in court and has said that pending a court decision she remains the



Megawati Sukarnoputri party's leader and will continue to act accordingly. She said Wednesday her faction was preparing a list of candidates for next year's parliamentary elections, scheduled for June, despite the government's statement that it would reject her list.

of the names and addresses of the people we have declared missing to the official who requested it," commission member Arnold Baramuli was quoted as saying by the Media Indonesia daily, declining to name the official.

The commission last month said there were five dead, 149 injured and 74 missing. The government, which blamed the violence on the people's democratic party (PRD), said four people died and 28 were injured. It made no mention of missing people.

Mr. Baramuli said the commission's figures were more complete because "people reported it honestly, without a feeling of fear or of being under pressure."

Ms. Megawati said Wednesday that she knew people were killed during the PDI headquarters raid on July 27, but declined to quote a number "as this matter is so sensitive" and said the authorities may possibly force her out again from her current headquarters.

Authorities have arrested PRD leader Budiman Sujatmiko, several other party members and independent labour leader Mukhtar Pakpahan.

All face subversion charges, for which the maximum penalty is death.

Scores of government critics continue to be questioned in the cases of Mr. Sujatmiko and Mr. Pakpahan. Ms. Megawati has been questioned three times, the last one Tuesday, for over 10 hours.

Asked whether she could be charged as a suspect in the future, she said it was "possible."

"Just give me your prayers that I will not become a suspect," she said.

Jakarta's crackdown has been widely condemned abroad and led to the postponement of planned U.S. sales of F-16 fighter planes.

## Hurricane moves toward the Bahamas

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Puerto Ricans remained out of reach of raging waters early Wednesday, as continuing rains worsened tremendous flooding left by hurricane Hortense that swept through Tuesday, leaving seven dead.

Pedro Rossello, governor of the U.S. territory, told an evening news conference that there were at least seven dead and four missing after Hortense's floods and mudslides.

In the Dominican Republic, brushed by Hortense after its trek through Puerto Rico, officials said that three fishermen were lost in high seas in the Bay of Samana off the Northeastern coast Tuesday afternoon.

But the final toll was likely to rise after floodwaters receded and the long cleanup from Hortense began. Spotty telephone service and impassable roads made it difficult for Puerto Rico's emergency officials to get accurate information about the destruction. Officials in the Dominican Republic, while noting they had been spared the worst of Hortense's wrath, said they were still assessing damage.

"Happily, we had little damage, but we will evaluate the information now arriving from provincial governments," Dominican Vice President Jaime David Fernandez, who heads the National Emergency Commission, told a news conference.

Although Hortense spent hours off the Dominican coast Tuesday, most of its power was east of its centre, away from the shore, lessening damage from its high winds and rains though high seas lashed beaches, trees and power lines fell and families were evacuated from coastal zones.

Mr. Rossello, in a news conference broadcast on local radio, urged residents to stay inside for safety from the rising waters and said he had asked for a federal disaster declaration from Washington.

"There's still danger of flooding tonight. Stay in your houses, homes or shelters," he said. "The people of Puerto Rico have shown that when confronted with a crisis, they know how to respond."

The 24-hour deluge broke rainfall records throughout the island, including 23 inches (58 cm) recorded at Rio Mameyes.

And forecasters said the battered island faced even more water.

"Additional rainfall of three to five inches, possibly higher over mountainous areas, is possible over Puerto Rico during the next day or two," the National Hurricane Centre

said Tuesday night.

Mr. Rossello gave a preliminary estimate of at least \$127 million in agricultural losses, topping \$100 million lost during 1989's hurricane Hugo, a stronger storm with less rain.

Nearly 7,000 Puerto Ricans were expected to spend the night in Red Cross shelters. Authorities said that virtually the entire northeast portion of the island was under water.

Ninety-five per cent of the island was without power for hours, although electricity returned for many Tuesday night.

The U.S. Coast Guard dispatched helicopters to help locate and rescue families stranded by the fast-rising waters.

"There are whole communities on the rooftops in some places," said Perry Officer Brandon Brewer.

Hortense had moved on a westward track into the Western Caribbean, moving over the island of Guadeloupe as a tropical storm Sunday. But it stalled and gained strength Monday before taking a turn toward the northwest, moving over Puerto Rico before dawn and heading over the eastern Dominican Republic later Tuesday.

At 5 a.m. EDT (0900 GMT), Hortense's centre was at latitude 20.6 north and longitude 69.9 west, or about 160 kilometres southeast of Turks Island and moving northwest at 9 mph (17 kph), the National Hurricane Centre said. The storm was about 1,280 kilometres southeast of Miami.

Maximum sustained winds were near 80 mph, just above hurricane strength, heading toward the Bahamas. But forecasters called Hortense's rains an example of the danger carried by even a category 1 hurricane.

Hortense also was expected to strengthen as it moved away from land and over the warm waters of the tropical Atlantic over the next 24 hours.

Hurricane warnings were posted for the entire north coast of the Dominican Republic, the Turks and Caicos Island and the islands of the southeastern Bahamas. A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch were in effect for the north coast of Haiti, and a hurricane watch was up for the central Bahamas.

The National Hurricane Centre said it was too early to tell whether or where Hortense would strike the mainland United States, but said Hortense's track likely would keep it east of southern Florida as it moved north over the next few days.

## Hashimoto hints at snap election next month

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto indicated Wednesday that a snap election would be held next month following reports that he would dissolve parliament in late September for an Oct. 20 poll.

"In order to settle diplomatic issues from now on, it is necessary to have a stable political base with the support of public trust," he told a luncheon at the National Press Club in Tokyo.

Mr. Hashimoto said June quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data expected Friday would be a major factor determining when parliament would be dissolved, along with the issue of Okinawa where a weekend referendum called for cuts in U.S. bases — the result of growing anti-U.S. sentiment on the island following the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by three American servicemen there last year.

The prime minister also said that the government "should not treat foreign guests badly," apparently referring to visits to Tokyo by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac in late October and November.

Mr. Hashimoto said earlier that he would bring forward talks on dissolving parliament with the other two leaders of the ruling coalition if the governor of Okinawa delays signing documents for renewing leases for U.S. bases.

"If Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's political judgement is delayed, I will have to hold a meeting at the earliest possible date," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Ota met with Mr. Hashimoto Tuesday and, after promises of increased central government aid for the southern island prefecture, said he would decide whether to sign the documents renewing the leases after returning to Okinawa.

During the luncheon, Mr. Hashimoto cited efforts to resolve the Okinawa issue as a major achievement of his eight-month-old government along with disposing of failed housing loan companies and strengthening ties with Washington.

"Before calling a snap election, I thought we had to achieve some progress in Okinawa which would be

acceptable to the Okinawan people so we can see some direction before making up our minds," he said.

But Mr. Hashimoto said it was also important that the economy was on a "sound track" following Japan's worst recession since World War II.

"Before making up my mind, we need to see the GDP results and consider whether we need to introduce a supplementary budget," he said. "We also need to confirm the reactions of the Okinawan people to my meeting with Okinawa Governor Ota. I don't deny that these issues are occupying my mind."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, the official government spokesman, was quoted as saying earlier Wednesday that the government was "half" way towards dissolving parliament and calling a snap election.

"We have taken half a step towards making a decision on the timing of the dissolution," he reportedly told a regular news conference. But "we have not yet reached the stage of actually making a decision."

Under the Japanese constitution, an election must be held by July next year and within 40 days of parliament being dissolved.

The Mainichi and Nihon Keizai newspapers reported Wednesday that Mr. Hashimoto was likely to call an extraordinary session of parliament on Sept. 27, a few days after a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York.

Under this scenario, designed to exploit an expected success in resolving the Okinawa issue and reaffirming security ties between Tokyo and Washington, he would then call a snap election for Oct. 20, the newspapers said.

But Kyodo News said the vote might be delayed until Nov. 3 or 10, depending on the reactions of the Liberal Democratic Party's coalition partners — the left-wing Social Democratic Party and the centrist New Party Sakigake.

Jiji Press, meanwhile, said that Mr. Hashimoto was considering plans to visit Okinawa later this month to show voters his determination to resolve problems in Okinawa.

## Le Pen embroiled in new race row furore

PARIS (AFP) — France's extreme-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen faced calls for his prosecution Wednesday amid a mounting barrage of criticism over his claims that blacks and whites are different and unequal.

The opposition Socialist Party called on France's Justice Ministry to "open the necessary legal procedures and punish the racist comments of Jean-Marie Le Pen as appropriate."

But as anti-racist groups and politicians from all the main parties united in condemnation, the leader of the anti-immigrant National Front was defiant, insisting the furore had been artificially stirred up.

The row is just the latest in a series of controversies involving Mr. Le Pen, who once said the killing of Jews in world war II was "a point of detail of history."

Yet he enjoys public support, winning 15 per cent of the vote in last year's presidential elections in France.

The comments which sparked the row were on French radio Monday. Asked if he stood by an earlier claim about the inequality of races, Mr. Le Pen said "All I did was say what everyone thinks."

"In the Olympic games there is a self-evident inequality between the black race and the white race. I note that the races are unequal ... this is a fact."

Justice Minister Jacques Toubon, while acknowledging that Mr. Le Pen's comments were based on racist ideology and should be rejected, was cautious about legal action.

"As a citizen, I condemn, reject and denounce all ideas and proposals that are based on racist impulses, feelings, ideology, wherever they come from," he said, but warned against resorting too quickly to legal measures.

"I advise everyone, at all times, to be very attentive to constitutional and legal rules. One does not play around with the principles of democracy."



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975  
الصحف اليومية العربية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Euphoria is dissipating

THE CONVENING on Saturday of an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo to discuss the Middle East peace process is further evidence that all is not well with the peace talks on the level of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is scheduled to take part in the meeting to signal his disappointment with his peace negotiations with the Israelis in spite of and after his historic handshake with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week. The euphoria generated by the landmark meeting between the two leaders seems to be quickly dissipating in the wake of little or no sign that there is action on the ground especially with regard to the redeployment of the Israeli army in and around Hebron as mandated by the Oslo peace accords. The small pace of talks on this track is taking its toll on confidence in the ability or willingness of the Israeli prime minister to move effectively away from his hardline position declared during his election campaign. The much hoped for change of heart on the part of the Likud-led government has yet to materialise in spite of some initial reports that moderates or pragmatists within the Likud hierarchy are moving in the direction of reasonable accommodation with the Palestinian people.

The situation on the Syrian front is even worse judging by statements emanating from the Israeli leadership. Netanyahu was more than blunt when he ruled out the return to the point where the Israeli-Syrian negotiations were left off during the rule of former Prime Minister Shimon Peres. "I must point out," said Mr. Netanyahu on the eve of his departure to Washington for talks with President Bill Clinton, that my government was elected on a programme different from that of the previous cabinet."

"Those who want us to adopt the same positions as our predecessors," added the Israeli leader, "do not understand a thing about Israel's democratic process."

In fact people do know about democracy in Israel. What is not easily understandable, though, is how a democratic nation would renege on treaty commitments that previous governments had undertaken on behalf of the country. The first symbol of a truly democratic rule is to respect what was agreed upon by former leaders. Otherwise there would be chaos in the world if newly-elected governments turn their backs to accords duly made by previous administrations. As long as Israel is talking about democracy, its new leadership must be reminded that international order and legitimacy would be seriously jeopardised if democracy would mean the repudiation of what was freely negotiated and agreed upon by predecessor cabinets. There is, therefore, no sense in Israel saying that they accept to resume peace talks with Damascus with no conditions attached as Netanyahu boasted during his visit to Washington. The Israeli prime minister cannot fool anybody with his offer to talk peace unconditionally. Of course, there are conditions: respect for legitimacy and international resolutions are caveats that are binding on all including Israel. The Arab League foreign ministers' emergency meeting therefore will have a lot on its hands when they meet in a couple of days. Israel must be served with clear notice that business will not be conducted as usual as long as it drags its feet on the remaining tracks. Peace in the area is indivisible. Unless it is comprehensive it will not last.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily discussed the outcome of the recent developments in northern Iraq saying that both Washington and Baghdad have claimed successes. The U.S. administration for its part claimed to have inflicted huge losses on Iraqi missile launchers and radar installations without incurring a single casualty, but the Iraqis claim a far bigger success by claiming they regained control of northern Iraq, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Indeed, the Iraqi government succeeded in forging an alliance with the Barzani faction which now dominates most of Iraq's Kurdistan region, thwarted American plots against the Baghdad regime and bolstered its stand on the domestic front, noted the writer. Furthermore, Baghdad succeeded in winning the support of Gulf states as well as Syria, Jordan and Egypt in the face of Turkey's declared plans to establish a buffer zone along the border with Iraq together with these countries' disapproval of American or any other foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs, he said.

AL DUSTOUR daily Wednesday expressed pessimism over the prospects of the resumed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, saying Israel's actions on the ground contradict its claims that it seeks genuine peace. The negotiations which resumed after a break of several months are taking place while the Palestinians continue to face a siege and while the Israeli authorities are going ahead with plans to build settlements on Arab lands and declaring that they would keep Jerusalem the united capital of Israel with total disregard to Arab rights, said the paper. Indeed, the negotiations were resumed following heavy pressure exercised on the Netanyahu government by Europe, the Arabs and from inside Israel too forcing the Israeli premier to open contacts with Arafat and the Palestinian leadership only as a tactic to gain more time, continued the daily. The actions of the Israeli government conflict with its statements about peace and the Israeli procrastinations with regard to the redeployment of forces in Hebron and the implementation of the Oslo accord manifest the Netanyahu government's insincerity in pursuing peace, it added.

## The View from Academia

# The role of the pulpit and constructive sermonising

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

BECAUSE OF the powerful influence of religion on the lives of many of us, Friday preachers play an important role in shaping public opinion. Such a role, however, could be made use of, much more so than is happening at present, to affect the course of many matters and concerns more directly and constructively.

Last Friday, I attended a sermon in which the imam was talking about the characteristics of a good teacher and the need to bridge the gap between the home and the school. It was one of the best sermons I have heard for years.

For one thing, it is refreshing to hear about something other than politics (in the narrow sense of the term). There is nothing wrong in imams addressing political issues because politics is essential to us and because the imam is supposed to play a leadership role. What is wrong, however, is the tendency to overpoliticise. Politics, Friday after Friday, is a bit boring. Too much of a good thing is negative. What is more negative, however, is: a) the lack of intelligent analysis in many political sermons and b) the tendency to look at issues from very narrow angles (those from which the imam's own political party looks through?).

It is a nice change then to have sermons which address some of our daily problems and concerns. Education is one of these. The imam is right: The teacher shoulders many crucial responsibilities and he needs all the devotion and power he can muster to execute such responsibilities ably and successfully. The same applies to parents, whose educational role is perhaps even more important than that of the teacher.

There are days when I want to hear something about traf-

fic, something about our civil servants, something about our carpenters and mechanics, something about the environment, something about littering, and so on. When I go to the mosque on Friday, I expect (may demand) to hear something about what is of concern to me and many worshippers.

The second reason why I liked the sermon is related to the imam's intelligent way of dealing with the matter. He

*We want an Islam that works from within the state, taking an active part in the debate about what should be and should not happen*

was precise, clear and to the point. There was no unnecessary beating around the bush, no dramatisation and no frivolous metaphors. Some imams address their audience the way you address a baby who has just learned how to smile. They are too patronising and condescending.

Respect of the audience is a crucial matter. Our society has changed, and there is hardly anyone among the audience who does not have a Tawjibi certificate, a bachelor's degree, or a master's.

There is a third reason why I liked this particular sermon. When the imam was discussing the importance of the

teacher's role, he made mention of the Ministry of Education's efforts to upgrade the level of teachers' performance. He lauded the ministry for such efforts and for some of its specific plans. He pointed to a couple of gaps in the plans and to some negative practices on the part of some teachers.

I was pleased to see an imam talking as an insider and not as an outsider. When many imams tackle matters, they almost always give you the impression that they are outsiders, as if they belonged to a country outside this country and a society outside this society.

This, of course, ties in with the overall role of Islam. Do we want an Islam which works from within the state, taking an active (but also responsible) part in the debate about what should and should not happen, or an Islam which works cynically or subversively from without it? I believe that we want the former. In some Arab/Islamic countries, Islamists (whatever that means) work from the outside and most often mock, deride, belittle and resort to means which the majority does not approve of.

The sermon last Friday represents then a positive phenomenon which we wish to see more of. The pulpit is an excellent tool for constructive change and reform, well-used; abused, it can be either irrelevant or damaging. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is called upon to pay increased attention to the training, certification and upgrading of the imams' quality and level of performance. Let them get involved positively and constructively in the present debate about how we should conduct ourselves presently and in the days ahead. We want more insiders.

# U.S. reaction to Iraq shows lack of political direction

By G. H. Jansen

WITHOUT MEANING to the American "Desert Strike" operation has been of great service to the whole world because it has brought about a basic readjustment of the power relations on the international scene.

This has been brought about by a near-total collapse of the dominant position of the U.S. as the sole superpower, that is to say the devaluation, the degradation of that position. For when the U.S. called upon its allies to support it in its policy of hitting Iraq with "cruise" missiles so as to "teach Saddam Hussein a lesson" because he sent his army into the prohibited area of the northern Kurdish "safe haven," many if not most of those allies simply refused to follow the U.S. lead.

Since then the whole world has been asking why the 30-strong 1991 Gulf war coalition has shrunk to fewer than 10 countries, with Britain, Germany, South Korea, Israel and Kuwait being the backbone of support. The U.S., embarrassed by the lack of approval, has tried to fudge the numbers. Thus, those countries which stayed silent

on the diplomatic front, like Saudi Arabia, or did not say "no" to "Desert Strike," were counted as saying "yes" and as supporting "Desert Strike" (apologists claimed they were supportive behind the scenes). But, in fact, Saudi Arabia, hitherto totally supportive of the U.S., joined Jordan and Turkey in refusing Washington the use of its airfields for strikes against Iraq.

The reason why there has been such a drastic diminution in the support formally given to the Americans by Arab states is quite simple: The U.S. promised the Arab governments, that if they joined the 1991 "Desert Storm" operation the U.S. would pressure Israel to implement U.N. resolutions on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory. But that has not happened because U.S. West Asia policy is still under the control of the pro-Israel Jewish American lobby.

"Desert Strike" has also stirred up hostile reactions because the U.S. plunged into the attack without any prior consultation, even with its friends like France and Egypt. This behaviour was altogether too arrogant for them to accept. Indeed the Western

European group, which met at foreign ministerial level at a conference at Tralee in Ireland last weekend, was so divided on Iraq that it could not produce a consensus resolution.

Besides diminishing the hegemonic power of the sole remaining superpower, "Desert Strike" also has encouraged the reemergence of the other former superpower as a counterweight to the U.S., a development which the U.S. naturally does not welcome. For many years that other power was, of course, the Soviet Union, which, when communism collapsed, virtually disappeared from the world scene, leaving it to the U.S. to beset the globe like some colossus.

However, for some time the Soviet Union's successor, Russia, has been showing signs of resurgency, even of revolt, against being reduced to a minor player. And that uneasiness was transformed into direct opposition to the U.S. when Russia, in the Security Council, threatened to veto a British resolution, supported by the U.S., which would have condemned Iraq without making any mention of the U.S. attack. After four

days of consultation the council gave up trying to reach agreement.

Such a display of an active and independent policy by Russia could transform the U.N. which could resume its former role as a world body, representing world interests, and not simply carrying out orders from the State Department.

This trend towards independence has been given impetus because countries which formerly allied themselves closely with the U.S. now say boldly and critically that "Desert Strike" had little to do with Iraq's actions and everything to do with Bill Clinton's presidential election campaign and his attempt to show he has "leadership qualities." In fact, it was not Clinton's leadership that produced "Desert Strike" but rather the persistent and nagging criticism made by Bob Dole about Clinton's lack of leadership that had the effect of producing firm decisions and prompt action.

On the military front, any government that aspires to be the major world power has to have ready to hand a weapon of awe-inspiring destructive might. The "cruise" missile was to be one such weapon

but both the 1991 "Desert Storm" operation and "Desert Strike" have shown it to be much less effective and efficient than the claims the U.S. makes for it. It is not invulnerable, because some "cruise" have been shot down. And it is surprisingly inefficient because half of the 44 missiles launched on Sept. 2 and 3 did not hit their targets or failed to explode while others did not take off at all because programming their guidance systems took too long.

Politically "Desert Strike" has achieved the exact opposite of what was expected. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the target of the operation, has emerged not weakened or humiliated but, it is generally agreed, strengthened. And he may emerge greatly strengthened since his Kurdish ally, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), has secured control over the "safe haven" when Sulaimaniyah fell to the KDP on Monday.

One of the objectives of "Desert Strike" was supposed to be to fend off Iranian interference or influence in the area, but here again the opposite is happening because one of the Kurdish protagonists whose constant warring led to

the crisis, the pro-Western Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), has threatened to appeal to Iran if it did not receive assistance from the U.S. and its Western allies. But this is not going to happen because the U.S. has already announced that it will not intervene in what it calls a "Kurdish civil war." Those words indicate very considerable American disenchantment with the Kurds and perhaps even a willingness to permit Baghdad to indirectly reassert its sovereignty in northern Iraq.

The contradictory results of "Desert Strike" make one point very clear: The U.S. has no thought-out, long-term policy on the Kurdish question. But does the U.S. have such a policy on any major issue? Exposure of such a lack of political direction further weakens U.S. credibility and influence.

The U.S. may, marginally, regain some of its lost credibility if it reverses its decision to indefinitely postpone the oil-for-food relief programme which was hastily and unnecessarily taken during the recent crisis. Virtually all Washington's erstwhile allies have asked it to do so. If it does, then it could show mag-

## LETTERS

### Expansionist policies

To the Editor:

I REFER TO the editorial which appeared in the Jordan Times, Sept. 10, 1996, entitled "Place for legitimacy and restraint" concerning Turkey's decision to establish a security buffer zone within Iraq's territory in full defiance of international treaties and legitimacy.

Turkey's line of action should not come as a surprise, since this country is pursuing expansionist policies towards other neighbours and in particular Greece, by disputing the borders in the Aegean Sea established by international treaties and by threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Greece.

Indicative of Turkey's obvious lack of any legal basis for her unilateral claims over Greek territory in the Aegean Sea is her refusal to put her case to the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

In this connection, the remarks in your editorial of violations of the common frontiers between Greece and Turkey should have referred to Turkey's unlawful and unjustified actions in the Aegean Sea.

Aristidis Sandis,  
Ambassador of Greece,  
Amman.

### Blazing sheep ship

To the Editor:

IN ANSWER to the article on the blazing sheep ship, Jordan Times, Sept. 5, 1996, as to what the Animal Protection Society was doing about the burning sheep, the first we heard about it was when we read the aforesaid article in the Jordan Times. On making enquiries we were told that 70,000 sheep were lost.

The ship was not Jordanian and it did not burn in Aqaba; it burned in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania, and the sheep must all have been dead by the time the story reached us. Therefore there was little we or anyone else could do. Apparently there was a huge explosion in the ship, the cause of which is being investigated, and it broke up. Parts of it were found later by the American Air Force off the coasts of Djibouti and Somalia. Sheep died from asphyxia and drowning, but most were burnt to death. One man, a mechanical

engineer, jumped overboard in panic and was eaten by sharks, but 54 crew were rescued.

I strongly suspect that the "animal rights" people mentioned were actually meaning "isn't it time Jordan (and probably other Middle East countries), stopped accepting cargoes of live sheep because of the cruelty involved?" I personally travelled from Fremantle Western Australia to Benghazi in Libya on the sheep ship Viborg with 36,000 sheep in 1984 to see for myself the conditions under which sheep travelled to the Middle East. While I could hardly condone sea-travel for sheep, the animals were looked after to the best of the Filipino stockmen's ability. Some sheep died, but were all post-mortemed. Most of these were found to have various diseases unrelated to the voyage.

The one big lesson I learned was that when big money is involved, it is virtually impossible to stop anything. As long as the demand is there for live meat, the "big boys" are going to provide it for the consumers. Who can stop all the Arabs eating meat?

The fires that tragically happen in sheep ships from time to time are usually caused by feed overheating in the hold, although there are other reasons, and sometimes the air-conditioning breaks down and suffocates the sheep in the hold.

All that animal welfare people can do (until everybody becomes vegetarian!) is insist on the best possible treatment for the sheep from paddock to abattoir, for which constant thorough veterinary supervision should be provided from Australia.

Chris Larter,  
Field Officer for the Jordanian  
Society for the Protection of Animals,  
Wadi Seer, Amman.

### 'Mudarabah' not 'speculation'

To the Editor:

IN AN article on mid-year figures (entitled "Jordan Islamic Bank boost mid-year profits by 49.5% to JD 20.68 million") in the Sept. 8, 1996 issue of the Jordan Times, the word "mudarabah" was translated "speculation." May I point out that these two terms have completely different meanings.

In fact the word "speculation" does not exist in the dictionary of Islamic banking applications whereas; "mudarabah," as defined in our bank's law has the following meaning: An investment method applied by Islamic banks whereby the bank advances funds necessary for financing a specific com-

mercial operation administered by a trustworthy client, who is expert in the field of the operation, on the basis of pre-agreed upon percentage of participation in the profits arising from such operation.

Musa Shihadeh,  
General Manager,  
Amman.

## Pedestrians should learn how to fly

To the Editor:

I HAVE been driving for a few years now. I recently moved to Jordan and decided to obtain a Jordanian driving licence. In order to do so, I was told that I needed to pass a test which would determine my driving skills. So, this morning I went to the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) so that their driving school might test my practical and theoretical driving capabilities. When my turn came up, I was escorted to a room where a driving instructor started asking me questions concerning road signs.

Among the illustrations was that of an old man crossing a road and a car heading towards him. The instructor asked me who had the right of way, and I responded that the old man had. The instructor laughed and said I was wrong. I asked why. He answered that the man crossing the street was not crossing within a pedestrian walkway. I argued that even though no walkway was illustrated, pedestrians, in Jordan as elsewhere, always have the right of way.

The instructor laughed again and said that in Jordan, as well as in Germany, if a pedestrian crosses at the wrong place then the driver has the right of way. Furthermore, he continued, if a driver hits a pedestrian and his vehicle is damaged as a result, the pedestrian is responsible for paying damages to the driver.

On my way home from my driving test, I counted the number of pedestrian walkways between the Seventh and the Third Circles. There were four. If the RACJ instructor is correct, then in Amman pedestrians had best learn to fly, otherwise drivers may start killing them off and get financial compensation after the fact. Could this be what Jordan means by population control?

Maria Bizi,  
Amman.



ember 12-13, 1996  
d Y. Majdoubel

# Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, September 12, 1996 **A**

## Society on the Move

### Long awaited for moments are just around the bend

Unless something earth-shattering happens Jordan can expect the long-awaited visit of South African President Nelson Mandela to take place in early November. The president's visit will be part of a whirlwind tour of the region which will take him to Tel Aviv, Gaza and Cairo. The sequence of Mr. Mandela's itinerary and details of whom he might meet and what he might do are all still being worked out. But the trip could coincide with the first anniversary of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Nov. 4. On Monday the Jerusalem Post reported that South African presidential aides told Israeli officials that during his visit to Israel, Mr. Mandela "would like to meet with as many South African Jews as possible and encourage them to return and invest in the country." The report quotes officials as saying Mr. Mandela would like to meet with a "stadium-full" of South African immigrants. It adds that compliance with the request on the side of Israel is "unlikely." In Jordan, however, he will be accorded a very warm welcome, particularly as he and Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are very good friends. In fact Mr. Mandela's invitation here was extended by King Hussein when he was in South Africa last January and the visit was initially scheduled for earlier. Mr. Mandela's international popularity keeps his travel schedule so busy that he has not even been able to visit Russia, despite the deluge of invitations he has received to go there. His visit to Jordan will be but a short day and a half, but it will be a symbolic trip aimed at encouraging the peace process since in economic terms there is little his country could venture into here. So promoting Jordan as an attractive and safe destination for South African tourists is a viable option, informed sources say.



HRH Princess Christina Mrs. Magnuson

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has represented Sweden and the royal family in Swedish manifestations abroad. Born in 1943, she married Mr. Magnuson in 1974, and thus her title became HRH Princess Christina Mrs. Magnuson. The couple have three sons: Gustaf (21), Oscar (19), and Victor (16).

**A NORDIC VISIT:** Princess Christina of Sweden, the youngest of King Carl XVI Gustaf's four sisters, will be in Amman next week for two important events related to emergency relief and healthcare. In her capacity as chairman of the Swedish Red Cross she will attend the 26th conference of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in Amman. Princess Christina will also attend a dinner for participants in that conference hosted by HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, who is honorary vice president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS). The honorary president is His Majesty King Hussein. The Swedish princess will also patronise the opening ceremony of the first international symposium and workshop on minimal invasive neurosurgery in the Middle East. The programme calls for a ceremony at Ibn Al Haytham Hospital to inaugurate the Gamma Knife, which was invented by the late Swedish scientist, Lars Leksell. Arriving to attend the conference as well as Professor Leksell's son, Lawrence Leksell, president and chief executive officer of Elekta, an international supplier of medical devices including the Leksell Gamma Knife. Aside from her interests in healthcare, Princess Christina, who will be accompanied by her husband Consul General Tord Magnuson, is a patron of the arts. While in Amman she will visit the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Darat Al Funun, Jordan River Designs and Bani Hamida House. Princess Christina studied American history for one year at Radcliffe College in the U.S. state of Massachusetts, then took up art history at the University of Stockholm. She has worked in the Information Division of

**MOVING IS THEIR BUSINESS:** Much is happening over at the Ministry of Transport where already this month more information was released on plans to revamp the public transport sector and privatise the Aqaba Railway Corporation. Falling within Minister Nasser Lawzi's stated "goal" of "setting things right once and for all" are changes in key positions at the ministry and at some of its government and semi-government controlled Issa Ayoub organisations. But starting with the ministry itself, the retirement this week of Secretary General Awad Tal brings a 44-year-old civil engineer, with years of experience in many hands-on projects, to the job. He is Issa Ayoub, a 1978 graduate of Warwick University in the U.K. Mr. Ayoub has spent most of his career (some 15 years) with the Ministry of Transport, working first at Queen Alia International Airport, then on the Mirage Project at the Muwajiq Salti

airbase in Azraq and later at the armour rebuilding facilities of the Jordan Armed Forces near Mafraq. He did a short stint at the Ministry of Supply where he demonstrated his particular talent for constructing hangars. By 1989 he was back full force at the transport ministry and became director of its Research and Studies Department until his appointment as secretary general this week. For Mr. Ayoub, the first two priorities of the ministry are "the ministry itself and public transport."

**JORDAN HOLDS SERVE:** The changes stemming from the Ministry of Transport are described by officials as "well thought out." Moving along thus, the by-laws of the nearly 16-year-old Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company called for the rotation of the person in the director general's seat. The three-year tenure, held most recently by Aysar Safi from Iraq, has gone to another government-appointed civil engineer. He is Abdullah Jbour, Abdullah Jbour whose Iraq connection can be traced to his higher education at Baghdad University from where he graduated. Mr. Jbour, 46, is also a Ministry of Transport alumni, with a career beginning there in 1979. He worked as project manager in charge of various construction projects at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), including the building of the Royal Pavilion, until 1990. Mr. Jbour then settled back full-time at the ministry as director of studies and research, a position he held since 1988 and which overlapped with his QAIA responsibilities. In 1991 he was made director of land transport. At the start of 1993 Mr. Jbour was seconded to take charge of the Unified Company for Organisation of Land Transport for 18 months. His hope is that the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq will be lifted and that the binational company will see a boom in private sector transport activities between the port of Aqaba and Iraq.

**DESTINATION UNKNOWN:** Meanwhile the ministry is still searching for someone to take the place vacated by the retirement of Hijaz Railway Director Burhan Shreideh. The retirements of Messrs. Tal and Shreideh were announced last Saturday. Where these two gentlemen will go from here, we do not know. What we do know, however, is that the retiring officials have been serving the government for a long time. Dr. Shreideh had served as director of the Statistics Department, a job now being held by Dr. Abdul Hadi Alawin and which incidentally might become available soon, according to reports circulating in town. And Mr. Tal had served as undersecretary of the Ministry of Municipal

Affairs before he joined the Ministry of Transport, first as director of the Ports Corporation.

**FACES ON THE TUBE:** Over at Jordan Television Director Nasser Joudeli is moving swiftly to get some projects into place, before he himself moves elsewhere. If speculation in town is on target, the embassy in London might be his next destination, it is said. But some objectives must be met at home before he makes his next move. One is the revamping of the entire news structure, presentation and editing, with a large focus on a strategy we have been hearing and witnessing much of lately — "injecting new blood." At the TV station this began with the Arabic news broadcasts and the hiring of Bashar Jarrar, an old-hand at television, as the new lead anchorperson on the 8:00 p.m. bulletin. On Monday he was joined by Mariana Far, a former freelance journalist with BBC who also trained in news presenting. From behind the scenes in the English News Section to the screen itself came Paul Hijazin and Lania Tabbaa, who were both editors/reporters before the move to presenting the 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. English news summaries. The 10:00 p.m. English news broadcasts are still being presented by Bayan Tal and Suzanne Afaneh. Rabah Rausan, the most senior of the English news presenters, has moved on to become an advisor at JTV. According to Mr. Joudeli, the next step is to set up separate teams for each news summary programme and thus move away from the practice of rotating the principals. That way, says Mr. Joudeli, viewers can expect to watch a particular presenter at a particular time. At present, JTV staff are working on developing a features desk as well.

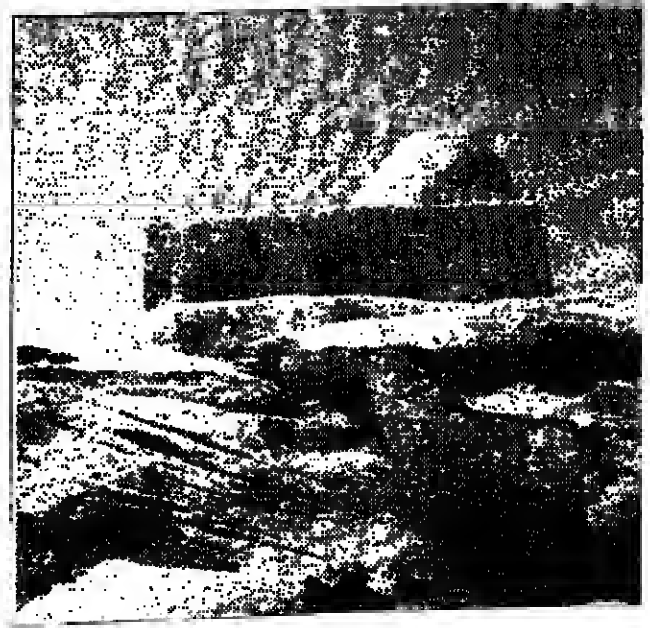
**BELIEVE IT OR NOT:** Not so new but rather popular faces are also slated for regular appearances on Jordan Television. At the initiative of Minister of Information Marwan Muasher, the political comedy theatre group of Nabil and Hisham have been commissioned to bring their stage swipes to the tube. According to both sides of the accord, the actors will be given free reign to aim their spoofs at any and all government officials. The concept, needless to say, has the approval of the powers that be, and the first casualties of the Nabil Sawalha, Hisham Yonis-led group will be none other than Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who bravely agreed to be the first target, followed by Dr. Muasher. That is supposed to guarantee that other public officials will not get bent out of shape when their turn comes up. The show is expected to debut in October. Contributing to the skits and scripts are two gentlemen known themselves to enjoy a good laugh: they are former Minister of Information and present Senator Jawad Anani and former Director of the Royal Cultural Centre and now host of JTV's Sa'el Wa Mass'ul talk show Isyad Qattan. With an array of topics to choose from, the writers have already completed the first two episodes. According to Mr. Sawalha, this kind of comedy provides "an essential balance in any democracy, because satire is most natural, as is laughing about people in power — it has always been a form of relief." We await the premiere on the premier.

## A comprehensive work on Jordan's everlasting heritage

### BOOK REVIEW

**The Holy Sites of Jordan**  
edited by Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad  
published by TURAB

The heritage of Jordan is the subject of this most interesting book that has been published recently by TURAB (soil in Arabic), an acronym for "Turath Al Urdun Al Baqi", a cultural society. The book was printed and published by a kind donation from Hani and Raja M. Salam as a gift to the people of Jordan. Layout, editing and typesetting of the book have been made possible by the gracious assistance of USAID. The senior editor of the book is His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of TURAB which aims to protect, preserve and propagate traditional Arab and Islamic culture and heritage in Jordan. In a full page of acknowledgements, Prince Ghazi enumerates the many personages, people and organisations that extended aid to the society and the different aspects of the completion of the work. The book is indeed a good example of cooperation and coordination, considering that the society was only founded in 1994 and that this was its first project. The title of the book has a special importance that is derived from Islamic tradition. Since holy sites are blessed locations, the hearts of the faithful turn to them for prayers and blessings. This attitude has been given due importance in the book by the publication of a fatwa written by a learned gentleman, Hasan Bin Ali Al Saqqaf on June 9, 1995. Its message to the



faithful is clear. It confirms that it was unanimously agreed by Muslim scholars that visiting these places is favoured by God.

In The Holy Sites Of Jordan the story of the land since the dawn of history is outlined in word and picture and it is truly impressive to feel the passing of time through the sites of the many historical events and renowned figures that Jordan had come in contact with.

The book is in two sections, the first dealing with Islamic Sites and the second with Christian Sites, and it will be of interest to list the different parts in each section.

#### Book I: Islamic Sites

**Part I** — The messengers and the prophets, starting with Noah whose shrine is in Karak, to Prophet Mohammad and his encounters with the Christian monks Bahira, Maysarah, and Nestor at Safawi, south east of Bostra, and in Um Al Rasas, are some of the stories related about the Prophet's early life.

**Part II** — The companions who were the first to lead the early Muslims during the life of Prophet Mohammad. Prominent amongst this group are the three shrines in Al Mazar, near Karak, of Ja'far, Zeid and Abdullah, who gave their lives at the battle of Mu'ta. This is considered to be the first important battle and the start of the Arab campaign to drive out the Byzantines from Bilad Al Sham. The list also includes the famous commander Abu Ubaydah, who supervised the surrender of Jerusalem to Caliph Omar and commanded the conquest of Damascus.

**Part III** — Other Religious Sites most famous amongst which is the "cave of the sleepers" at Al Raqqin, whose story is similar to that of the sleepers of Ephesus. Here the legends of Christianity and Islam mingle in a harmonious way. Another site where the legends of Judaism and Islam mingle together is "Uyun Musa" or Moses Springs near Madaba.

**Part IV** — Historical sites are those of the three battles of Mu'tah, Pella and Yarmouk that witnessed the Arab drive against the Byzantines in southern Bilad Al Sham. At Yarmouk the fate of the emerging Arab empire was guaranteed and that of the withdrawing Byzantines was sealed forever.

**Part V** — Appendices with special ties to Jerusalem, whose sacredness to both Islam and Christianity needs no explanation. A most interesting relic which has been placed by His Majesty King Hussein in the Central Bank of Jordan for safe-keeping is the letter of the Prophet Mohammad to the Emperor Heraclius in the year 628 A.D.

A site of special importance mentioned in Appendix III is The Royal cemetery in Amman, where the founder of Jordan, the Late King Abdullah, was buried after his assassination on the July 20, 1951 while praying at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

#### Book II: Christian Sites

**Part I** — The Biblical History of the land where the fight between the Ammonites and the Moabites on the one hand, and the Israelites, on the other, continued for centuries. The sanctuaries along the Roman Road from the east bank of the River Jordan to Mount Nebo, near Madaba, were of special interest to Christian pilgrims and continues to be so at the present time.

**Part II** — The Jordan River is, of course, best known as the place where Jesus Christ was baptised by John the Baptist. The Madaba mosaic map, a unique relic discovered in the floor of the Orthodox Church in 1896, renders an outstanding display of the River Jordan and the sanctuaries to the east of it, including the sites of John the Baptist, rediscovered by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad in 1995. Mount Nebo, Madaba and Um Al Rasas.

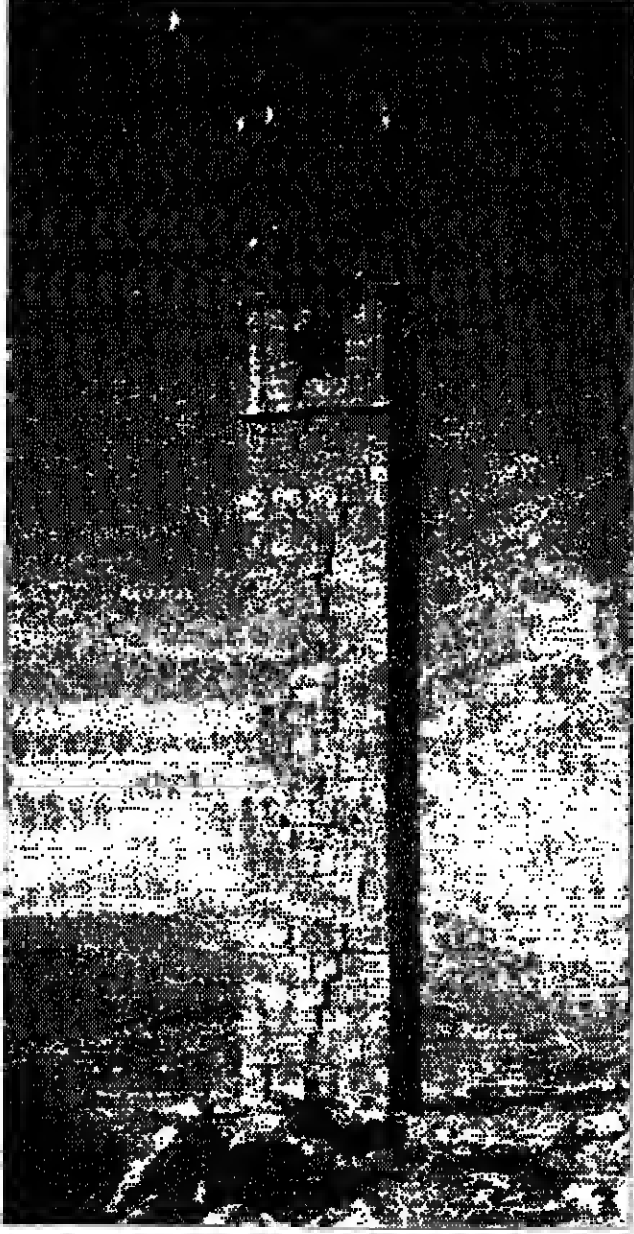
**Part III** — The Saints start with Lot and his church uncovered recently in Ghor Al Safi near the Dead Sea. Next mentioned is Mukawir/Machaerus where John the Baptist tragically died. The whole area, however, was the southern boundary of Persia, where the Romans organised their front lines against the onslaughts of the Nabateans from Petra.

The Memorial of Moses at Mount Nebo is of special interest and is very well documented in the story revealed by one hundred parchment sheets that were written over 1300 years ago. The Roman pilgrim who wrote these is known by the name Egeria or Etheria, and the value of her endeavours is more appreciated as she wrote a complete narration of a second trip which took her to Mount Nebo from Jerusalem.

This part of the book includes a good collection of pictures and narrations about the Church of St. Theodore and the Church of Saints Cosmas and Damianus at Jerash, the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Madaba, the Soldier Saints' Memorial at Ayla/Aqaba, the stilted Byzantine Tower at Um Al Rasas and last but not least the Monastery and Tomb of Aaron at Mount Hor near Petra.

A map of the Christian holy sites at the end of this section gives the reader an overview of the many important oases that marked the Christian era in an area extending from Um Qais and Um Al Jimal to the North to Aqaba in the South.

The value of this book to the reader is manifested in its presentation of historical facts in simple, informative terms and its display of the sites through beautiful photographs. This achievement could not have been attained without the technical expertise of Mr. Alonzo Fulgham who was really the "man behind the book." Together with the team of USAID and other collaborators they have worked hard to produce this work. The final result was greatly enhanced by the expert knowledge and photography of Father Michelle Piccirillo for the Christian Holy Sites and Mr. Fakhri Milkawi for the pictures of the Islamic Holy Sites. Considering, however, the magnitude of the work and the complexity of its different aspects one becomes more aware



Umm Al Rasas

of the extent of coordination that had to go into it. The senior editor, Prince Ghazi, has evidently made a great effort to bring out a book that is an artistic work in its own right. TURAB, a young society by all standards, may also be proud of its accomplishment in offering a first production











# Device transforms brain surgery

By Jane E. Brody

TO CHRISTINE Tejada and her family in Brooklyn, the procedure known as Gamma Knife radiosurgery is nothing short of a miracle.

When she was 8, Christine was found to have a life-threatening blood vessel malformation in her brain and was scheduled to undergo risky invasive surgery that would have hospitalized her for perhaps 10 days and been followed by weeks or months of recovery and rehabilitation. Instead, she was treated successfully in Chicago without so much as a slit in her scalp.

The treatment, which involves no knife at all but rather hundreds of powerful, highly focused radiation beams aimed at the malformation, was done on a Thursday, she left the hospital on Friday and was back at school and up to her old tricks by Monday.

Christine was a seemingly normal, healthy third-grader when, out of the blue, she developed a severe, incapacitating headache. The next day, the headache had subsided but she developed a stiff neck. Then the headache returned and she became disoriented.

A CT scan found that Christine's problem was an arteriovenous malformation, a tangle of blood vessels that had bled into her brain. Unless the vascular defect was quickly corrected, she could suffer a brain-damaging and perhaps lethal stroke. Three and a half years later, thanks to prompt and effective radiosurgery, she is fine, having "finished the sixth grade with honors."

Gamma Knife surgery, technically known as stereotactic radiosurgery, is revolutionizing the treatment of some problems in the brain, including benign tumors in



The 201 narrowly focused beams of gamma rays from cobalt 60 destroy only the tissue where the beams meet

treacherous locations, like the brain stem or near the optic nerve. The \$3.5 million machine replaces the surgeon's scalpel with a single, high dose of gamma radiation emitted by a cobalt-60 source. The patient wears a helmet resembling a heavy salon hair dryer. The helmet has 201 small round holes in it that aim the radiation so that 201 narrow beams of gamma rays are all aimed at a single tiny target. The tissue being treated thus receives a very strong dose of radiation without harming anything along

the way. The painless, bloodless procedure, which is usually performed under local anesthesia with mild sedation, takes just 15 to 40 minutes, depending on the size of the area needing treatment. If necessary, the beams can be refocused and the procedure repeated until the entire diseased area is treated. If there are multiple tumors or if the tumor spreads to another area, radiosurgery can be repeated again and again. Free of surgical complications like infection, hemorrhage and

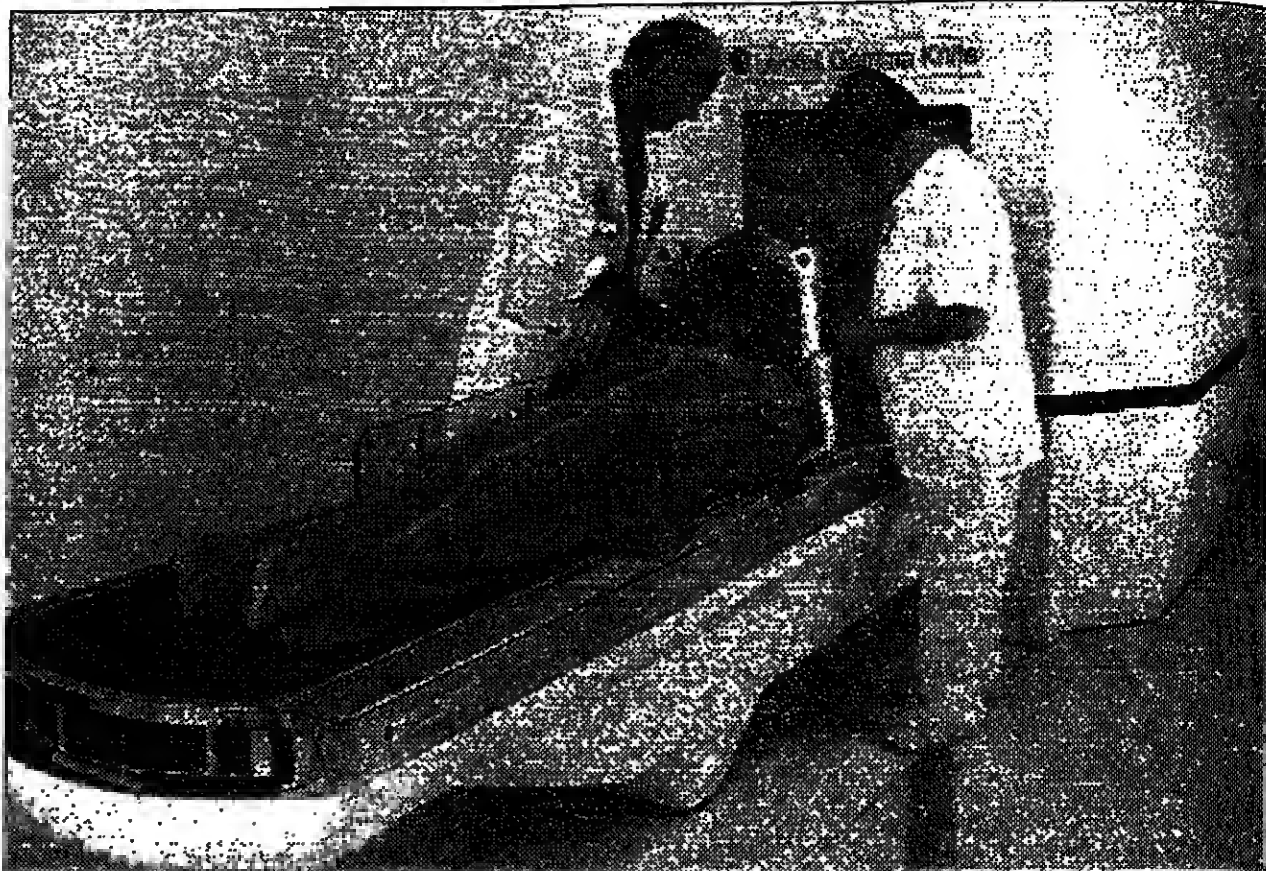
leakage of spinal fluid, radiosurgery has proved very appealing to the candidates for brain surgery who have so far been given this option.

Radiosurgery is also appealingly cost-effective, its proponents say. Although the procedure usually requires a team of specialists — neurosurgeon, radiation oncologist and radiation physicist — hospital stays are 70 per cent to 90 per cent shorter than with conventional surgery, there is no need for intensive postoperative care or long rehabilitation and patients can get back to work in a few days. About 20,000 patients in the United States have undergone radiosurgery so far, and tens of thousands more have been treated in Europe and Asia.

In addition to the surprisingly common defect Christine had, targets of stereotactic radiosurgery include small tumors like acoustic neuromas and meningiomas, as well as tumors in areas of the brain that are inaccessible to the surgeon's scalpel or so close to vital structures that surgery could irreparably harm normal brain tissue. It is also being used to control cancers that have spread to the brain from elsewhere in the body and, in combination with traditional surgery, it can stem the growth of malignant brain tumors that cannot be completely removed with a scalpel.

"In the past, when cancer spread to the brain, it was considered the beginning of the end and there was little else to do," said Dr. Dade Lunsford. "Now tumors that metastasize to the brain can be controlled, and if they recur, radiosurgery can be repeated."

Dr. Lunsford is a neurosurgeon at the University of Pittsburgh's Pres-



The Leksell Gamma Knife is used today for pinpoint surgery

biterian Hospital, where he has performed radiosurgery on 1,650 patients since 1987. The Gamma Knife unit with which he "operates" was the first one installed in the United States.

Dr. Lunsford said that in 50,000 to 60,000 patients each year, treated cancers spread to the brain, even when no trace of the disease remained elsewhere in the body. He predicted stereotactic radiosurgery would replace other treatments, including traditional surgery, to control these brain metastases. And while the patients' cancers might not be cured, he said, radiosurgical destruction of metastases can give them years of quality life.

In Dr. Lunsford's experience, success in controlling tumor growth ranges from 85 per cent to 90 per cent for brain metastases to more than 90 per cent for benign tumors.

The cure rate for arteriovenous malformations like Christine's is 70 per cent to 90 per cent, he said.

Obliterating arteriovenous malformations is a leading use for the Gamma Knife, even though there is a chance the blood vessels will continue to bleed for up to two years, until the defective vessels are completely blocked off. The effects of radiosurgery occur over a period of days to years after a single treatment. With traditional surgery, the defect can usually be eliminated on the spot, but after radiosurgery the tangles of vessels close off and are gradually destroyed, and periodic CT scans or M.R.I. examinations and an annual angiogram are needed until the lesion is gone.

Now, in collaboration with radiologists, neurosurgeons experienced in stereotactic radiosurgery are cautiously beginning

to extend its use: To quell intractable facial pain in patients with trigeminal neuralgia, to relieve chronic cancer pain, to obliterate abnormal areas of brain tissue that give rise to uncontrollable epileptic seizures and to treat psychoneurosis, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. The Gamma Knife has also been used to treat cancers of the eye and benign tumors of the pituitary gland at the base of the brain.

The Gamma Knife was developed in 1950 by a Swedish neurosurgeon, Dr. Lars Leksell of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, aided by a physicist, Dr. Borje Larsson of the Gustaf Werner Institute at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. But its application had to await brain imaging techniques like the CT scan and M.R.I. that could tell surgeons

exactly where to aim the intersection of the radiation beams.

Through years of experimentation, Dr. Leksell put together an instrument that emitted 201 gamma ray beams from a cobalt-60 source and focused them all, through a protective helmet, on a single point as small as three-tenths of a millimeter wide. If necessary, multiple bombardments can be delivered in the course of a single treatment by changing the position of the helmet on the patient's head.

The first treatment unit was installed in Stockholm in 1968, where it was successful in safely and noninvasively destroying tumors and other abnormalities in the brain. The instrument, officially called the Leksell Gamma Knife, is manufactured by Elekta Instruments Inc. of Stockholm — The New York Times.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

LABOR PARTY  
By Gayle Dean

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DIAGONAL, 17x17  
By Don Johnson

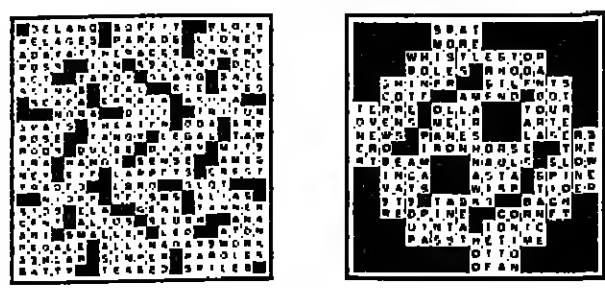
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



## Symmetry boosts sperm count, sexual attraction

By Caroline Drees  
Reuter

VIENNA — Men who are more symmetric



## Arafat seeks Japanese help to advance peace process

TOKYO (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Wednesday the Middle East peace process is now "passing through difficult times" and sought Japan's support in the face of a new hard-line Israel.

"This (peace) process is now passing through difficult times," Mr. Arafat told a lecture audience in Tokyo. "It is almost frozen and that caused a real crisis which undermined all the expectations which came to existence in the beginning of the process."

"Japan has a moral and political responsibility to push forward the peace process," he told guests at a reception later.

"I reiterate the importance of your support here in friendly Japan, of your role and efforts to rescue the peace process and push it forward again on all tracks," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat's four-day visit to Tokyo, which began on Tuesday, comes just a week after his landmark meeting and handshake with new Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Arafat, who in January became the first democratically chosen Palestinian leader, is touring the world appealing for pressure on the new Israeli leader.

Mr. Arafat said Israel's blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was strangling the Palestinian economy, estimating the daily loss at \$7 million.

"We are gravely concerned by the Israeli practices...which is a violation of all the signed agreements and a challenge to the will of international community and the resolutions of international legitimacy," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat met Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda later in the day.

Mr. Arafat also reaffirmed his support for Iraq's right to defend its frontiers against U.S. attack.

"Iraq is trying to protect its borders from outside dangers and we support them," he told reporters.

Mr. Arafat was received by Emperor Akihito, who he thanked him for Japan's support for the Middle East

peace process which led to the creation of the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA), an imperial spokesman said.

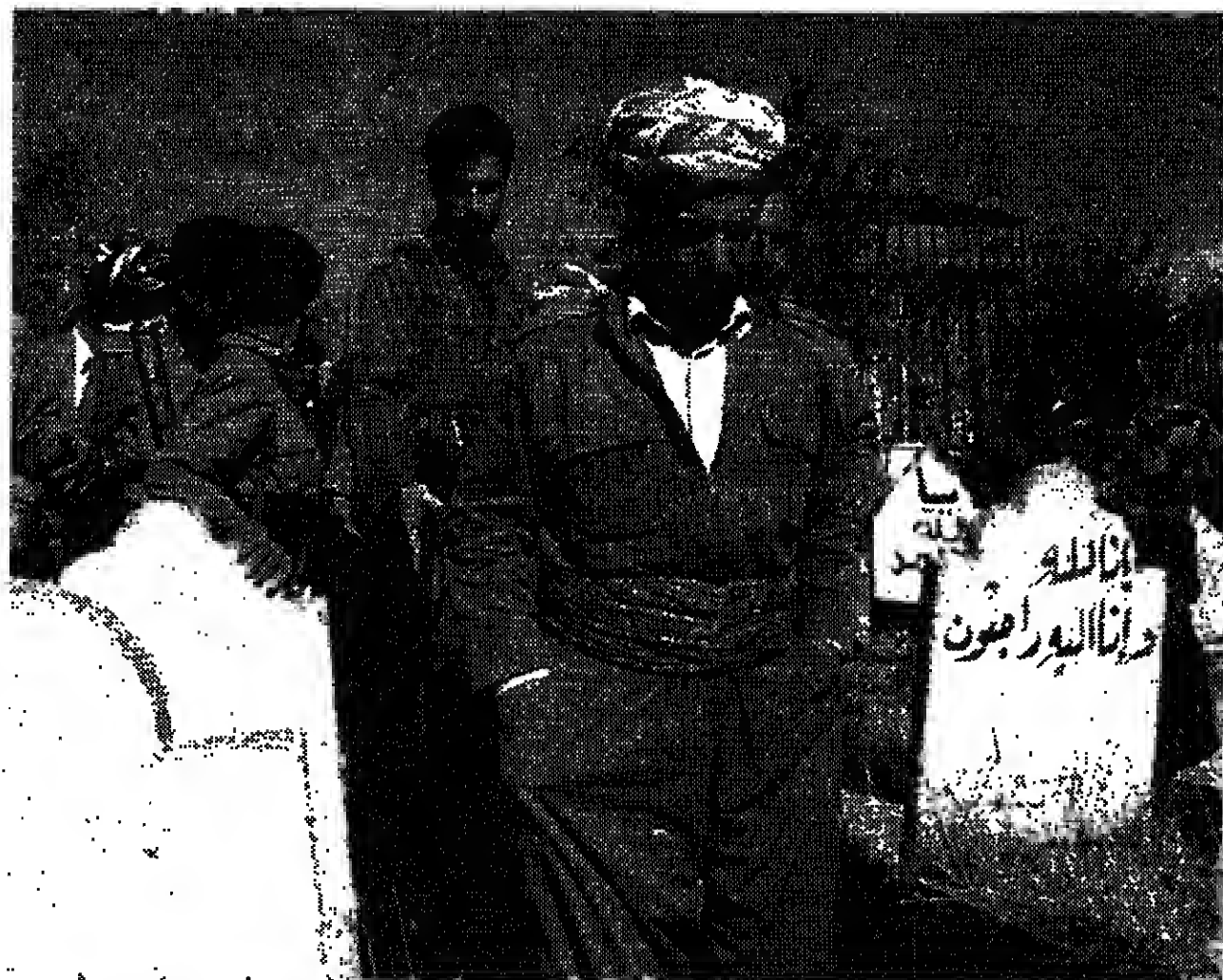
Mr. Arafat commented to the Japan Middle East Institute of the latest Middle East crisis: "We consider that what the Iraqis are doing is defending their international borders."

He said he had in the past acted as a mediator between the Kurds in northern Iraq and the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein, now under mounting pressure from the United States over its military incursions against Kurdish towns.

"We respect the territorial unity of the Iraqi land. This is our clear position," added Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat had a 25-minute meeting with the emperor, who expressed hope that efforts to make the Middle East peace process succeed, the spokesman said.

This is Mr. Arafat's third official visit to Japan but the first for which his official car has used the Palestinian flag



Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) leader Massoud Barzani walks through a cemetery in Sulaimaniyah after his forces took the town from rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan fighters (Reuters photo)

## North Iraq taken — what is Saddam's price?

SULAIMANIYEH (R) — Kurdish chieftain Massoud Barzani, having seized Iraqi Kurdistan, now awaits the bill from President Saddam Hussein for services rendered.

With limited but key military assistance from the Iraqi leader, Mr. Barzani and his men swept through northern Iraq to realise a long-time dream. But at what price?

"No one knows whether Barzani did a deal, but the common wisdom is that Saddam does not give favours for nothing," a senior U.N. official in northern Iraq told Reuters.

Mr. Barzani's bold gambit has produced more upheaval in northern Iraq over the past 10 days than at any point since a failed Kurdish uprising five years ago.

Tens of thousands of panicked Kurds fled to the Iranian border, fearing Mr. Barzani brought Baghdad with him despite billing his Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) as the authentic voice of Kurdish nationalism.

To retain that mantle, Mr. Barzani must hold President Saddam at arm's length, maintain productive relations with the West and somehow reconcile deeply divided Iraqi Kurds, nearly half of whom voted in 1992 elections for Jalal Talabani, the rival chieftain he vanquished this week.

Held at bay by Western air power and Kurdish resolve since the Kurd rebellion collapsed in 1991, President Saddam now has a tenuous hold on northern Iraq thanks to Mr. Barzani.

"I personally don't think we will see an Iraqi government present here. Barzani knows that would be the end of the aid effort since Baghdad said the aid operation is illegal," the U.N. official said.

But betrayal is the word that has formed in the minds, but is not yet on the lips, of many Kurds. They're convinced Iraqi Kurdistan will not find happiness at the hands of President Saddam. Hardly a family has not suffered the loss of a relative at his hands.

Refugees are not just routed Talabani soldiers, but also Kurdish civilians with undimmed memories of torture, murder, rape and disappearances at the hands of the Saddam regime.

Although some have returned, among those who fled the key cities of Erbil and Sulaimaniyah were aid workers, fearing reprisals from Baghdad.

Aid worker Fuad Zangani was one who headed home once convinced Iraqi troops were staying out. "If Saddam Hussein were there and caught us, he would kill us,"

The U.N. official said: "Foreign staff are subject to prison terms and local staff could face death. The humanitarian effort would collapse overnight at the first scent of Saddam's agents."

Some Kurds insist Iraqi agents are circulating in Erbil and Sulaimaniyah in Kurdish dress. Reporters are hard pressed to support the claims, except for eyewitness accounts that Saddam's forces arrested Iraqi National Congress and other opposition figures in Erbil and executed about 100.

KDP officials say they have taken "remedial action" to prevent further reprisals. But suspicions of a secret deal will not die easily where allegiances shift with dizzying speed.

Analysts warn that if Mr. Barzani allows himself to be romanced by Baghdad, Mr. Talabani could rally anti-Saddam forces and make a come-

back.

President Saddam's limited military assistance to Mr. Barzani — armour and artillery around Erbil and possibly near Degala and Koi Sanjaq — has been swiftly followed by sweeteners to pull Iraqi Kurdistan into Baghdad's orbit. The Iraqi president has lifted his five-year-old blockade and declared a broad amnesty.

Though suspicious, most Kurds acknowledge such benefits as lower fuel prices, greater business opportunities and more reliable salaries for civil servants who have fared poorly under a Kurdish experiment in self-government.

Mr. Barzani has issued his own amnesty to Mr. Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) forces and said that once Mr. Talabani admits defeat new elections must be organised in which the defanged PUK would be eligible to participate.

Supporters say Mr. Barzani is betting he can pit Baghdad against the West and win economic benefits for his people and power for himself while relying on the Western air umbrella to prevent President Saddam moving in.

In Ankara, a spokesman for Mr. Barzani's KDP said the faction was signing no agreements with President Saddam and that only parliament could make such a deal.

But critics reckon the KDP leader is supping with a devil, who will not be denied.

The PUK's Ankara spokesman Shazad Sabh brushed aside the KDP election offer, telling Reuters: "What kind of elections? It will be like the elections of Saddam Hussein. And I think the KDP is an extension of the Iraqi government."

## Iran says U.S. is behind Iraq events

TEHRAN (AFP) — A senior Iranian official accused the United States on Wednesday of encouraging Iraq to attack its Kurdish population and provoke a refugee influx into neighbouring Iran.

"Iraq could not have entered the safe zone declared by the United States without Washington's support," said Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

He was referring to the Kurdish safe haven set up by the U.S.-led allies after the 1991 Gulf war.

"With the Americans retreating and clarifying their stand, it became obvious that we were right in our analysis," he said, quoted by Iran's official news agency IRNA.

The speaker charged earlier this month that Iraq acted on a U.S. "green light" to help the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) expel the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) from Erbil, the main city in Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

The United States, which launched missile attacks against Iraq last week in retaliation, has ruled out U.S. military action in the north and blamed the internal fighting for the crisis.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri argued that the United States had supported an Iraqi incursion in the north so as to "stop the inroad of (Iran's) Islamic revolutionary culture in the region."

In justifying its action, Baghdad said it had heeded a call for help from the KDP to check Iranian influence in the region.

The KDP has since tightened its grip on most of northern Iraq, where tens of thousands of Kurds have been displaced toward the Iranian border to escape attack.

In the past six years the Iraqi people have continually suffered from moves by the Iraqi government and counter-moves from the United States, Iran's state radio said.

"The latest developments in Iraq and the bitter massacre and homelessness of innocent people is yet another page of a repeated collusion" between Baghdad and Washington," it said.

Interior ministry officials have refused to allow in refugees in large numbers, but Iran has been settling them at border regions and providing help.

Mr. Rashid also lashed out at the United States which, he said, had "betrayed" the Kurdish people.

"Frankly, we were betrayed by the Americans who, since the beginning of the Iraqi offensive against Erbil, did nothing to stop Saddam Hussein's army," he said.

An Iraqi opposition movement said that Iraq's sixth armoured division had been seen moving southward to Um Qasr near Basra in southeastern Iraq towards Kuwait.

"Our sources from Basra ... confirmed the movement of the 6th Armoured Division towards Um Qasr district south of Basra" on Tuesday, the Supreme Council for Islamic Resistance in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement.

"A convoy of large military trucks have been seen carrying the tanks of the 6th Armoured Division and moving south..." it said.

It added that troops had been seen massing at an air base northeast of the Zuhair district, as well as in the southern suburbs of Basra.

On Tuesday, SCIRI reported heavy Iraqi troop movements in southern Iraq.

Washington also said it had observed similar troop movements, saying it was "watching closely."

Diplomat in Kuwait said they had no information of the reported Iraqi military movements near the border of the emirate.

## U.S., locking horns with Iraq, struggles to keep allies on board

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States, gearing up for another showdown over Iraq, faced the challenge Wednesday of averting further cracks in the allied coalition that stood alongside Washington in the 1991 Gulf war.

As the Pentagon positioned B-52 bombers to a base on the Indian ocean island of Diego Garcia, the stage was set for a replay of last week's diplomatic tussle over how to deal with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The aircraft deployment came after the Pentagon said Iraq had fired a missile at two U.S. fighters that were patrolling the northern no-fly zone and had sent its planes inside the southern no-fly zone.

According to the Pentagon, Iraq has also been repairing air defence sites that were hit by U.S. cruise missiles last Tuesday and Wednesday to punish Baghdad for sending troops into a protected Kurdish area in the north.

Britain and Germany supported last week's missile strikes against Iraq but

France and Russia questioned the decision, with Moscow foiling plans for a U.N. resolution condemning the Iraqi offensive in the Kurdish areas.

Russia's top Middle East official, Viktor Posavalyuk, renewed Moscow's criticism of U.S. actions in Iraq on Wednesday, charging that Washington was meddling in the Kurdish conflict in northern Iraq.

The United States has "assumed the right to decide who is just and who is guilty in the conflict between the Iraqi government and the Kurds," Mr. Posavalyuk told the Russian weekly Argumenty i Fakty in Moscow.

There were also signs that France was not prepared to follow the U.S. line on Iraq when the French foreign ministry this week called for the U.N. oil-for-food deal for Iraq to move forward.

The deal that was delayed in the wake of the Iraqi offensive last week will allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil twice a year to cover the cost of

food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies that are to alleviate the suffering from five years of sanctions.

Italy, another U.S. ally, urged the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday to allow the programme to go forward in the next two months.

U.S. officials have rejected suggestion that the coalition that pushed Saddam Hussein's troops out of Kuwait in 1991 was in tatters in the wake of the latest U.S. military action against Baghdad.

State Department analysts last week maintained Washington held extensive consultations with its allies on Iraq and had decided to go it alone, knowing that there would be some rumblings from friendly capitals.

In Congress, influential Republican Senator John McCain, an adviser to presidential candidate Bob Dole, this week complained that the U.S. action had received "very little support... from our friends and allies."

## Rweished

(Continued from page 1)

Rweished area, including the Rawdat Al Bandan Village.

Speakers at the meeting raised the question of this village, which, they said, still lacks water supply and the prime minister promised that this issue would also be tackled by the concerned departments as soon as possible.

Mr. Kabariti told the meeting that all the complaints raised by the local citizens will be addressed by the government.

Local leaders had presented demands and explained their living conditions saying that they live on raising livestock

and demanded that the government help them deal with water and animal feed problems.

Earlier prime minister chaired a meeting of the executive committee of Mafrag Governorate and listened to Governor Ahmad Lawzi outlining the services situation in the Rweished region. He said that development plans in the governorate had been slated to be completed by the middle of next year.

Heads of government departments presented briefings on the services provided to the hadia region including the Rweished area.

## Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

"It is in the interests of countries concerned with Kurdish affairs to learn lessons from what happened in the north and to interfere no longer in Iraq's internal affairs," Al Jumhuriya wrote.

"Those who play the Kurdish card will get their fingers burned," the newspaper said, adding that Iraq "now knows how to play it better than anybody else around."

Baghdad accuses Tehran of backing the PUK, while Turkey has announced plans to set up a border "security zone" in northern Iraq to prevent infiltrations by Turkish Kurds rebels.

The United States meanwhile moving additional warplanes into the Gulf in the event of another confrontation with Baghdad, Pentagon officials said.

Defence Secretary William Perry said a country in the region had granted a U.S. request to send F-117s there, but would not identify it.

Cable News Network reported that the F-117s were being sent to Kuwait.

"They already have the deployment orders," Mr. Perry told reporters.

A U.S. defence official said eight F-117s had orders to deploy to the region.

Mr. Perry said the United States did not ask Saudi Arabia for permission to base the F-117s there.

"We requested another country. That request has been granted and we will be sending the F-117s there," he said.

A pair of B-52s left their base in Guam which headed for the island of Diego Garcia in the Arabian Sea near the Gulf, the officials said.

"The air force has received permission to base the B-52s on Diego," said a sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Two B-52s took part in the last round of cruise missile attacks against Iraq.

Other possible military responses are under consideration, including the placement of a second aircraft carrier and F-117 bombers in the region, military sources said.

About 50 additional U.S. warplanes are based in Incirlik, Turkey, but the Pentagon so far has confined its attacks on Iraq to the south, regarding it as Baghdad's strategic centre.

That leaves six U.S. warships in the Gulf that are equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles and warplanes aboard the Vinson, whose 83 aircraft include 20 F/A-18C fighters, 18 F-14Ds and a dozen A-6Es.

The action comes in the wake of a pair of provocations from the Iraqi leader's military forces, including the firing of two missiles at a pair of U.S. F-16s patrolling over northern Iraq Wednesday.

A Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said initial reports that two missiles were involved apparently are incorrect.

"It turns out the two (F-16) pilots saw the same missile from different angles, not two separate missiles," the official said.

A senior Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that President Saddam appears to be misreading U.S. resolve in the matter.

"I think he's made the miscalculation that we won't act because of the elections," the official said. "He miscalculates all the time."

The military officials also said that besides firing two missiles at U.S. aircraft, an Iraqi MiG-25 jet flew towards the no-fly zone in the south, but did not penetrate it. That is a typical type of testing action taken by the Iraqi pilots, the military officials said.

Following the failed attempt to send a missile towards the U.S. aircraft in the northern zone, two U.S. F-15Es attempted to try to find the missile site, but they were unable to do so, a third military official said.

The Iraqis apparently turned the radar on, fired the missile and then shut the radar down within seconds, the official said.

The missile incident occurred so quickly that U.S. warplanes were unable to retaliate, Pentagon officials confirmed.

They said the F-16s were illuminated by Iraqi radar for two seconds — not enough time to accurately target the U.S. fighters but also too briefly for the F-16s to return

fire with harm radar-seeking missiles.

About 20 U.S. and British warplanes were in the air at the time supporting the "no fly" zone north of the 36th Parallel, the Pentagon said. No French aircraft were flying in the north at the time, a Pentagon official said.

In the south, neither the helicopter nor the MiG-25 were detected by electronic means crossing the 33rd Parallel, the new northern boundary of the southern "no fly" zone, the officials said.

No U.S. warplanes were in the area at the time, they said.

Iraq has complained to the United Nations about President Clinton's offer to help Iraqis escape fighting in northern Iraq and warns it will take "all steps it deems necessary" to defend its territory from U.S. "aggression."

In letters Tuesday to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and the Security Council, Iraq complained that Mr. Clinton was illegally interfering in Iraqi internal affairs.

U.N. sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the letters were received late Tuesday, but they refused to release the text.

On Monday, Mr. Clinton said the United States was trying to help anyone who needs to escape the fighting in northern Iraq, but "our ability to control internal events in Iraq is limited."

Other U.S. officials said only Western government and relief officials were being evacuated from northern Iraq.

Ethnic Kurds have raised fears of severe Iraqi reprisals against anyone suspected of sympathising with the United States.

In a separate complaint, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad

Al Sahaf said Turkey's plan to establish a buffer zone into northern Iraq constituted "acts of aggression...openly supported by the United States of America."

Mr. Sahaf accused the United States of encouraging the Kurds to take steps which challenge Iraqi sovereignty and independence.

"The Iraqi government reserves the right to take any steps it deems necessary to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty and to ensure the safety of its people in the face of the policy of aggression pursued by the United States," he said in a letter to the council Tuesday.

The PUK of Jalal Talabani meanwhile rejected as worthless an amnesty offer from President Saddam.

"Saddam has no credibility," the PUK's representative in London, Latif Rashid, told AFP.

He said: "Anyone who accepts an amnesty from this dictator will meet the same fate as Hussein Kamal Hassan," President Saddam's son-in-law who defected to Jordan and was murdered in February several days after returning to Baghdad.

"Saddam is not in a position to offer amnesties. Instead he should be begging forgiveness from all the Iraqi people."

Mr. Rashid also lashed out at the United States which, he said, had "betrayed" the Kurdish people.

"Frankly, we were betrayed by the Americans who, since the beginning of the Iraqi offensive against Erbil, did nothing to stop Saddam Hussein's army," he said.

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# Military personnel represent highest number of public sector workforce

Following is the third and last part of an article on the size of the Jordanian public sector and the financial costs it entails. The second part appeared Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1996

By Samir Ghawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The military sector which comprises the Armed Forces, the Public Security Department, the Civil Defence Department and the Royal Medical Services is the largest employer as it covers 42.8 per cent of all those who work in the public sector, a study by the Department of the Budget (DoB)

shows. Totalling 150,000 persons, the military sector accounts for 14.9 per cent of the overall Jordanian workforce which is estimated at 1,010,000 persons on the assumption that the number increases by 50,000 persons each year.

The second largest area of the public sector is the field of education and technology where 84,329 persons are employed. The number represents 24.1 per cent of the public sector workforce

and 8.4 per cent of the overall workforce.

Nearly 55,000 persons work in the field of economic development to make this area the third largest of the public sector. The percentage, as such, is 15.7 per cent of the public sector and 5.4 per cent of the overall workforce.

By accounting for 7.4 per cent and 2.6 per cent of the public sector workforce and the overall workforce respectively, the health and social services occupy fourth place with a total number of 25,807 workers.

In other areas, 16,065 are employed in the communications and transport fields, 7,049 in financial management, 4,436 in cultural and information services, 4,787

in interior affairs, 1,175 in international affairs and 1,364 in general management.

Based on these figures, the study calculated that the public sector workforce accounted for 34.7 per cent of the overall Jordanian workforce in 1996 compared to 35.6 per cent in 1995, noting that the overall workforce was 960,000 in 1995 and 1,010,000 persons in 1996.

The study recommended controlling the inflated public sector workforce through specific employment standards, such as:

1- Halting the creation of any new jobs except under utmost need and only in areas related to population growth such as health and

education.

2- Exercising practical financial control on all allocations for capital projects, especially those related to workers who get paid from the "capital expenditure" account.

3- Studying the possibility and employing civil servants who are paid from the regular budget to replace the workforce needed for capital projects.

4- Terminating the services of all who work on project basis immediately after the completion of the project.

5- Considering the participation of the Armed Forces in infra-structure projects.

## Pakistan devalues currency

KARACHI (AFP)—Pakistan Tuesday devalued its rupee by 3.8 per cent against the dollar, marking an overall 18 per cent fall in the value of its currency since June 1995.

Announcing the decision, the central State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), set the new rate of exchange at 36.97 rupees to the dollar, up from the previous 35.62.

The dollar has appreciated significantly in relation to all other major currencies, SBP Governor Mohammad Yaqub, told a press conference here.

"We are not (the) dollar but are linked with (the) dollar so we had to go for such a devaluation," he added.

In June 1995, one dollar was equal to 31.01 rupees according to the official rate.

Foreign exchange dealers said the devaluation was expected and added that "the rupee value may fall further in the open currency

market and will further increase the demand for U.S. currency."

Khanani and Kaalia International, a leading currency dealer, said the devaluation was aimed at satisfying the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the hope that it will release a pledged \$85 million in credits to Pakistan.

"The government wanted to show the IMF that it deserves to get the loans after going for further devaluation in the rupee," a manager of the firm said.

Tuesday's devaluation was the ninth since the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto unveiled the heavily tax-laden budget in June, causing uncertainty about Pakistan's fiscal position and foreign exchange reserves.

In October 1995, the government devalued the rupee by seven per cent saying the move was aimed at enhancing the country's exports. But since then the

value of rupee has continued to fall.

Mr. Yaqub, cited the same reason for the latest devaluation, saying the move would have a favourable impact on the country's exports.

"First Prime Minister Bhutto was reluctant for political reasons but then agreed after being convinced by me," he added.

The opposition parties, which accuse Ms. Bhutto of economic mismanagement, have been waging a campaign to oust her from power.

Mr. Yaqub stressed the decision was also intended to control speculators who were making fast money on the open currency market.

He said the remittances from Pakistanis living abroad would now increase.

Pakistan is expected to export goods worth of \$8.2 billion while its imports are likely to be around \$11.6 billion.

## Alloush: RSS is not public sector institution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saeed Alloush, vice president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), told the Jordan Times Monday that the article entitled "Government pays JD 88.58 million in salaries to 464,449 citizens each month" and published Monday Sept. 10, 1996 has incorrectly classified the RSS as a public sector entity that pays salaries to its employees from the government treasury.

Dr. Alloush emphasised that the RSS is a private entity being independent administratively and financially. He said that classifying the RSS as a public sector entity would harm the image and role of the RSS especially in the international level and in foreign circles. Her further added that the RSS was registered as a society at the Ministry of Interior and has no other registration as a public institution.

The Jordan Times contacted Abdul Rahman Ajlouni, the director general of the Department of the Budget which prepared the study, and he confirmed that the RSS was financially independent and that the government does not pay any salaries to the RSS. He clarified the entity was classified as public solely for the purpose of the study and for the general support that the government shows for the RSS.

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## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson.  
Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have assumed obligations which now have to be handled at this time, so do so conscientiously. Don't get involved in some disagreement.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) An fellow associate can be as stubborn as you await a better day to discuss an important matter with influential individuals.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Find the best way in which to do your career activities easily and calmly today and you can get much accomplished in your duties.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Stick to inexpensive pleasures so that you need not jeopardise present security. Show that you are truly devoted to your loved ones.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Think out the best way to straighten out the melee at home and establish harmony there at this time. Be firm, but kind.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Much care is imperative in motion of all kind so that you can avoid costly accidents. Use diplomacy in handling correspondence.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Don't spend money foolishly because you are in a confused state of mind for a few minutes. Drive carefully while on the highway.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A feeling of frustration is setting in where gaining your personal wishes are concerned so be sure it is really what you desire.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get rid of those restricting situations which bother you today, but do so quietly for best results in your career activities.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If you are overly demanding at this time, you will not gain the aims you desire to reach. Forget your usual huddles, seek out new friends.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Be sure to act in a poised fashion if you are to be with important individuals today or tonight for you to be successful.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Be cautious in that new course of action you are taking today otherwise you can get easily taken. Drive with care while on the highway.

Birthstone of September:  
Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

## Saudi group sets up 400 million riyal sheep farm

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia's Al Rajhi group of industries has set up a 400 million riyal (\$107 million) sheep farm in Al Jouf in the north to meet increasing demand for locally reared sheep and goats, a Saudi newspaper said.

Saudi Arabia is one of the world's most lucrative markets for live sheep exports. But more stringent health regulations on sheep imports have seen some exporters turned away in recent years.

The daily Arab News quoted Al Rajhi Group Managing Director Khaled Sulaiman as saying the new farm had begun rearing some 200,000 sheep.

Al Rajhi Group, also owns and operates Al Wataia Poultry, the largest poultry farm in the Middle East.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson.  
Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Contact persons out of town whose ideas are different to your own and make real progress at this time for your success.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Get into monetary affairs which are important today and express yourself intelligently. Show that you are reliable in the duties you are involved with.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get in touch with outside fellow associates today and get much accomplished with this kind of support. Be courteous with everyone.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get at those career activities ahead of you in an enthusiastic and happy fashion and they will be a breeze for you to be prosperous.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Make the plans to have a delightful time in the evening today, and then follow through in the evening with ideas on a new project.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to add to your activities which will improve your home life. Plan a party in the evening with close friends and loved ones.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Handle the correspondence which will bring new opportunities to advance into your life and success in your career activities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You have to give attention to financial and other practical matters today, and in the evening, an expert helps you out with a new project.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have personal problematical affairs to study early today and by later this evening you can solve them wisely for you to be successful.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be sure that your motives are good in any activity you have started. Get together with the one you love in the evening.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) See as many good close friends as you can today and make new acquaintances. The evening is fine for enjoying amusements.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You can accomplish a great deal in the outside world, both today and in the evening. Don't neglect civic duties which must be accomplished.

Birthstone of September:  
Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

Jordan Times  
Tel. 684311/699634

## THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte

ACROSS

1 Summoned  
6 Sharp bark  
10 Intention  
14 Rope plant  
15 Butte  
16 — Royale  
17 Angler's basket  
18 Ancient Greek coin  
19 Pleased  
20 Patti Page hit  
23 Also  
24 — de mer  
25 NASA theme song?  
33 Brings up  
34 — avis  
35 — in the bud  
37 Oohs and —  
38 Boosts one's product  
40 Head: Fr.  
41 GI's hangout  
42 Jog  
43 Subway  
44 Astronaut's question?  
48 Towel word  
49 Actor Linden  
50 Jimmy  
51 Johnson's favorite song?  
57 Formal dance  
58 Agatha Christie's "Death on the —"  
59 Trunk item  
61 Seed covering  
62 Fitzgerald oil  
63 Type of battery  
64 Contradict  
65 Oliver or Rex  
66 Freud follower

DOWN

1 Moccasin  
2 City on the Juma  
3 Cell  
4 Daredevil  
5 Takes out  
6 Hello, there!  
7 Czech river  
8 Uns

9 Chemical compounds  
10 "American —" (Gore movie)  
11 Capital of Norway  
12 Ladd  
13 Conducted  
21 "I — Rhythm"  
22 "I Remember —"  
25 Teutonic little  
26 Tether  
27 "Gulliver's Travels" creature  
28 25D in the USA  
29 Verily  
30 Crane  
31 — a customer  
32 Yegg's explosive  
36 Lowly laborer  
38 James Brown's — of Love  
39 Ship's record  
40 Pro —  
42 Slender

43 Musical  
45 Altogether  
46 Hang by a —  
47 Pork product  
50 Old, grey beast?  
51 Actor Ken, ol "thirtysomething"

52 Base  
53 Fashion magazine  
54 Like peas in —  
55 Stores galore  
56 Dies —  
57 Rotten  
60 Goof

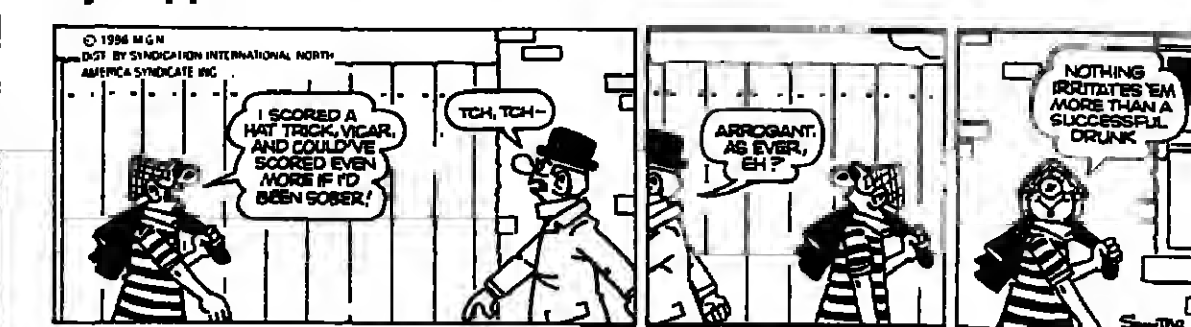
## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



Christina Schifano  
Filipino workers in Middle East on the decline  
FOR RENT  
2 bedrooms apartment  
2nd floor, 2nd floor  
2 bedrooms in A.F.  
3rd floor, 1st floor  
Abdoun Real Es  
Tel: 810605 - 810  
Fax: 810520  
Happy Day  
Patisserie  
Cakes & Salads  
OPEN DAILY FROM  
10 A.M. - 1 A.M.  
Tel. 857199  
Fax 898537  
Umm Uthair  
Behind San R.  
Hotel



# Dutch organisation to support Jordan to become a centre for regional trade

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's first general export marketing and management workshop organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) aims at the establishment of a bilateral trade cooperation agreement between the organisation itself and the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CPI) to enter the European market.

The semi-governmental JEDCO, which was founded in 1972 as a joint venture between the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce mainly looks after small and middle-sized companies in the region.

"Jordan's trade balance is still very much in favour of

the European community," Ghazi Sharaia, the head of JEDCO's international cooperation section told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

"The European market is a very potential one with a huge purchasing power," he said. "It is a challenging opportunity for the workshop's participants to face the possibility of being part of such a market and do (successful) business over there."

Mr. Sharaia also stated that it is still a long way to go but the initial step was taken with the set up of the meeting.

During the workshop, the participants will be familiarised with the best way to promote their products taking into consideration con-

sumer behaviour, existing requirements and regulations and distribution channels in the European market.

Deputy Director J.C. Jurjens said that upon the organisation's establishment in 1971 its original aim was to promote import from Third World countries to the Netherlands and was later expanded to the European Community.

The organisation works on the exporting countries' side in cooperation with local trade promotion organisations (TPO) aiming to boost their exports to Europe.

The association supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and trade exhibitions in devel-

oping countries in their promotion of exports to the European Union.

On the TPO's side — which equals JEDCO's position here — the association takes care of the workshop's organisation, which includes the rent of the space needed, the invitation of the companies and the bearing of the costs for the event itself, whereas the CPI organises the consultants and the lecturer's programme.

The whole lecturing-staff belongs to the CPI's general marketing consultants department and does not charge any money for the rendering of their services. It is funded by the Dutch's ministry of foreign affairs.

"This workshop," Mr.

Jurjens explained, "has three targets: A promotional one for the JEDCO and CPI to show the willingness of cooperation, the transfer of knowhow to the seminar's participants and finally to find out under what circumstances a bilateral trade cooperation agreement between JEDCO and CPI could be established."

"Our organisation," he continued, "is looking for possibilities to support JEDCO, and thus Jordan, to become a centre for regional trade in the Middle East. Although Jordan is a very small country, it may perform a major regional function."

To achieve this aim, he stressed, JEDCO first of all has to prepare Jordanian

companies to provide more and better trade within the region. CPI will then provide training and participation programmes to adjust them to the European standards and make them thus compatible for the regional market.

The one-year programme of CPI consists of seven major steps, whereby in Jordan they mainly concentrate on the integrated export promotion and the market information programme.

This programme is designed for six product groups which starts with a product market testing and offers its litigants an international trade fair participation in the European Union (EU) at the end, which is regarded as a great opportunity to meet with potential trade partners. The expenses for such an programme are minimised as the participants only have to pay for their trans-

portation and accommodation. The information programme then gives the region access to relevant market news and publications, called "telematic".

During the process the CPI will work on an improved training programme according to the regional needs.

These are the setting up of a business plan, the familiarisation with the European trade requirements, the incoterms, international marketing, improvement of language skills and the access to data bases.

The suggested market-entry strategy by CPI for Jordan to set foot on the European market is either "low profile" or "niche marketing", where the product's promotion costs are ranging from affordable to low and the risk taken is reasonable.

According to Mr. Jurjens Jordan has to provide high-quality goods and services at a competitive price. He

said that the country's pharmaceutical and medical equipment as well as the Dead Sea products are standing the best chances so far.

The date for the signing of a three-year trade cooperation agreement — which might be further extended after that period — is not set yet as it depends on a supply survey to be conducted by JEDCO and the companies that will participate in the programme.

A participation of at least 10 companies is required as otherwise the organisation's expenses will be too high.

The workshop is attended by 115 participants (nine participants are from the Palestinian territories) representing the service and manufacturing sector.

The four-day seminar which lasts from Sept. 9 until 12 takes place at the Forte Grand Hotel.

## Filipino workers in Middle East on the decline

MANILA (R)— The number of Filipinos going to work in the Middle East fell by 9.83 per cent in the first half of 1996 due to tougher recruitment laws, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has said.

A total of 326,523 Filipinos went to work in Gulf states in first six months of the year, down from 362,107 in the same period last year.

POEA deputy administrator Tito Genilo said the new law prescribed harsher penalties for illegal recruitments, especially of women.

"A skilled and informed worker is our best protection against exploitation," Mr. Genilo said in a statement.

About four million Filipinos work abroad and their remittances are an important source of foreign exchange. But most are employed in menial jobs and recent cases and allegations of exploitation has made the country cautious about allowing workers to go overseas.

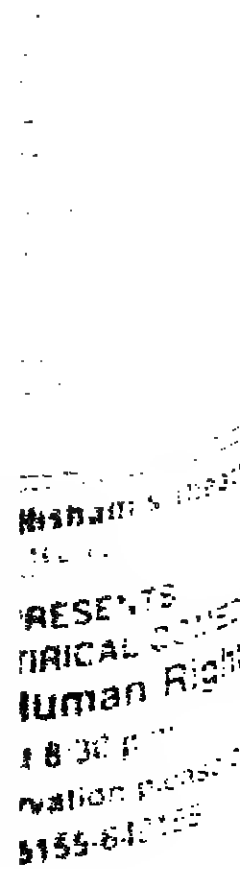
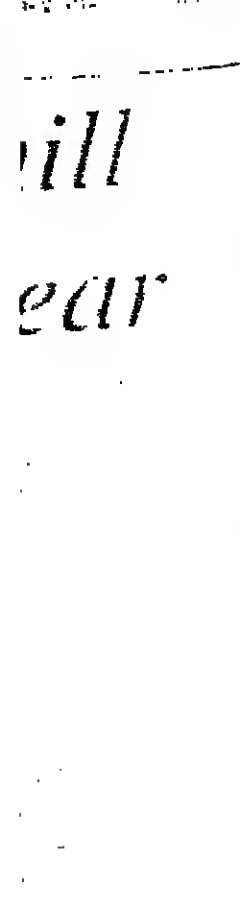
AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 11/09/1996									
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	13.2	1.43	38	4340	998800	240.50	244.00
2,000	1,500	BANK OF JORDAN	10.6	0.00	5	2100	6215	3.00	3.00
1,310	890	MID-EAST TRV. BK.	46.0	0.00	4	2750	3755	1.01	1.01
3,700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.1	0.30	4	350	774	2.22	2.22
4,270	4,270	THE HOUSING BK.	13.1	2.83	23	4350	2100	4.86	4.86
3,040	2,400	JOR. INVEST. BANK	19.6	0.00	9	160	965	2.87	2.70
1,240	1,090	JOR. CREDIT BANK	0.5	0.00	26	7500	6006	0.92	0.92
1,380	1,380	JOR. LEASING BANK	17.5	0.00	26	9710	3497	3.87	3.87
3,390	1,560	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	5	1600	2804	1.88	1.81
4,000	3,000	JOR. TRV. & INV. BANK	17.4	0.00	2	10000	3300	2.75	2.36
1,410	2,290	UNIT. AC. & INV. (PUB. CO.)	1.4	0.00	7	2100	4784	2.23	2.23
1,090	1,090	AMMAN BANK TRV.	0	0.00	4	12000	3132	0.25	0.25
1,440	1,000	PHILADELPHIA TRV. BK.	0	0.00	17	5940	6998	1.18	1.20
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
2,910	2,160	JOR. FRENCH LEASING	6.1	9.17	5	1000	3175	2.19	2.18
FINANCIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
1,900	1,450	JOR. MORTGAGE BANK	11.1	7.50	22	35441	4082	1.60	1.60
1,860	1,140	JOR. PROPERTY SECURITIES	9.8	0.00	1	100	190	1.52	1.50
1,850	2,090	SHIPPING LINES	9.8	0.00	1	130	348	2.28	2.32
1,120	1,080	HAITI PORTFOLIO	0	0.00	41	20950	26133	1.20	1.26
1,160	1,680	REAL ESTATE DEV.	20.0	0.00	1	1000	800	0.09	0.09
1,660	1,090	ARAB INTL. INV. FUND	13.0	0.00	25	7650	27057	3.37	3.68
1,180	1,180	ZAKA ASSOCIATION	0	0.00	25	11450	12761	1.08	1.13
1,420	1,420	TRUSTED CO.	9.7	0.00	9	8160	1815	1.46	1.46
1,200	1,200	UNION BANK TRV.	0	0.00	3	650	645	1.00	1.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
1,770	2,090	JOR. CREDIT BANK	19.6	0.00	12	5252	17613	3.36	3.36
1,310	710	JOR. PROPERTY SECURITIES	29.2	0.00	5	2100	6215	3.00	3.00
1,960	1,780	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.4	0.00	3	600	4600	5.32	5.30
1,540	810	JOR. PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT	25.4	0.00	1	174	10874	9.26	9.29
1,590	1,150	MOHAMED INTERNATIONAL	0	0.00	2	1400	7250	1.45	1.45
1,780	1,450	INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JORDAN	30.7	0.00	18	4839	10857	2.13	2.24
1,380	1,380	JOR. LEASING BANK	17.5	0.00	26	9710	3497	3.87	3.87
1,020	1,020	ARAB BANK TRV.	0	0.00	4	650	645	1.00	1.00
1,450	1,450	JOR. CREDIT BANK	19.6	0.00	12	5252	17613	3.36	3.36
1,000	1,000	GENERAL INVESTING	7.2	10.71	1	100	780	2.62	2.80
1,000	1,000	DAN ALBARRAN INV. CO.	13.3	0.00	1	900	5490	6.15	6.10
1,000	1,000	JORDAN TRV.	13.2	6.90	1	100	315	2.10	2.15
1,310	2,800	GENERAL INVESTING	7.2	10.71	1	100	780	2.62	2.80
1,000	1,000	DAN ALBARRAN INV. CO.	13.3	0.00	1	900	5490	6.15	6.10
1,000	1,000	JORDAN TRV.	13.2	6.90	1	100	315	2.10	2.15
1,310	2,800	GENERAL INVESTING	7.2	10.71	1	100	780	2.62	2.80
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1,000	1,000	JORDAN TRV.	13.2	6.90	1	100	315	2.10	2.15
1,310	2,800	GENERAL INVESTING	7.2	10.71	1	100	780	2.62	2.80
1,000	1,000	DAN ALBARRAN INV. CO.	13.3	0.00	1	900	5490	6.15	6.10



## Italians in command in UEFA cup

T O D A Y  A T	<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144</p> <p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b></p> <p><b>Ben Kingsley... in SPECIES</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 699238</p> <p><b>PLAZA</b></p> <p><b>The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki....in Naser 56</b></p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD</b></p> <p><b>CONCORD "1"</b> Arnold Schwarzenegger &amp; Vanessa Williams ....in <b>ERASER</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>CONCORD "2"</b> Jim Carie ...in <b>Dumb and Dumber</b></p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p><b>Ammoun Theatre &amp; Cinema</b> TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p><b>Five-Star Government</b></p> <p>Starring comedians: <b>Mahmoud Saimeh &amp; Hussein Tubeishat</b> play starts 8:30 p.m</p>	<p><b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Theatre</b> TEL: 625155</p> <p><b>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights</b></p> <p>At 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call <b>625155-640155</b></p>
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# Sports

## Orioles move ahead of White Sox in wild card race

BALTIMORE (R) — The Baltimore Orioles moved into the lead in the race for the American League wild card berth and kept the pressure on the New York Yankees in the battle for the eastern division title with a 5-1 win over the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

David Wells scattered seven hits over 7 1/3 innings and Rafael Palmeiro belted a two-run homer to cap a three-run fifth inning for the Orioles, who moved one-half game ahead of the White Sox in the wild card race.

The Orioles, who trail New York by 2 1/2 games, scored three runs in the fifth off starter Kevin Tapani (12-9) to snap a 1-1 tie.

Roberto Aomar doubled and beat the throw home on Todd Zeile's bloop single to left. Palmeiro then hit his 35th homer into the right-centre field stands for a 4-1 lead.

"He gave me a good pitch to hit and I just saw the ball well," Palmeiro said. "You've got to give credit to David Wells, he pitched a great game."

Palmeiro, who has 130 RBI this season, has seven homers and 35 RBI in his last 30 games. Wells (11-13) gave up one run with two walks and three strikeouts.

In Detroit, Cecil Fielder's choice in the eighth inning scored Bernie Williams with the go-ahead run and right fielder Ruben Rivera's diving catch to the ninth preserved the New York Yankees' 9-8 victory over the Tigers.

The Yankees won for just the sixth time in 15 games to stay 2 1/2 games ahead of Baltimore.

Fielder soaped an 8-8 tie with his grounder to third in his first game back in Detroit since being traded by the tigers in July.

Mariano Rivera (6-2) got the win in relief of Dwight Gooden. A.J. Sager (3-4) took the loss.

In Boston, Jeff Cirillo had four hits, including two homers, and drove in four runs, as the Milwaukee Brewers edged the Red Sox 11-10.

Boston, which has lost four in a row, fell 5 1/2 games behind Baltimore in the wild card hunt. The Red Sox are 4-5 in September after winning 22 of 30 games in August.

Cirillo hit a solo homer in the first and added a two-run shot an inning later. He also had an RBI single in the fifth.

Gerald Williams' RBI single triggered a five-run third-inning outburst that gave Milwaukee a 9-4 lead.

Ramon Garcia (4-3) got the win despite giving up six runs. Mike Hudson (3-4) was drilled for five runs in just 2 2/3 innings for the loss.

In Cleveland, Manny Ramirez's three-run homer



Philadelphia Phillies center fielder Ricky Otero gets tagged out by Houston Astros catcher Orlando Miller while stealing second base in the top of the fifth inning. The Astros were hosting the Phillies at the Astrodome. Houston defeated Philadelphia 4-3 (Reuters photo)

off Troy Percival with two out in the bottom of the ninth capped a four-run rally that lifted the Indians to a 7-5 victory over the California Angels.

With Cleveland trailing 5-3, Kenny Lofton walked, stole second and third, before scoring on a single by Jim Thome. Then, with two men on, Ramirez belted his 28th homer, a 429-foot shot to straightaway centre field.

Paul Assenmacher (4-2) picked up the win in relief.

In Toronto, Will Clark hit a three-run homer and Mickey Tettleton and Lee Stevens added two-run shots to lead the Texas Rangers to an 11-8 victory over the Blue Jays.

Darren Oliver (12-6) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings for Texas, which has won eight consecutive games from Toronto and is 10-1 against the Jays this season.

The Rangers' magic number for clinching their first west division title is 11. Texas leads the Seattle Mariners by nine games with 18 to play.

Woody Williams (3-3) was tagged for six runs and 10 hits in five innings for loss.

At Minnesota, Dave Telgheder fired a three-hitter for his first Major-League shutout and Ernie Young belted a three-run homer as the Oakland Athletics blanked the Twins 7-0.

Telgheder (3-5), making his 21st career start, walked three and struck out seven in his first complete game. Rich Robertson (7-14) was tagged for five runs and seven hits over 4 1/3 innings. The A's already led 3-0 when young belted his 17th homer.

Minnesota's Paul Molitor was held hitless and remains 10 shy of the 3,000-hit milestone.

In Kansas City, Jose Rosado allowed six hits over seven innings and Bob Hamelin snapped a sixth-inning tie with a two-run homer as the royals beat the Seattle Mariners 4-2.

Rookie left-hander Rosado (6-5) allowed two runs and two walks while striking out eight.

Edgar Martinez hit a two-run homer in the top of the sixth for the fading Mariners, who have lost six of nine.

Hamelin's 432-foot two-

run blast off Salomon Torres (1-2) broke a 2-2 deadlock. Torres allowed four runs and six hits in seven innings.

### Mets lose by six

The Woeful New York Mets took the Florida Marlins into extra innings on Tuesday and somehow managed to lose by six runs, 9-3.

With Doug Henry (2-8) on the mound, Florida's Edgar Renteria led off the top of the 12th with a home run over the left-field wall that snapped a 3-3 tie.

Pinch-hitter Jerry Brooks delivered a two-run triple and Alex Arias doubled home Brooks before Paul Byrd relieved Henry. Kurt Abbott singled home the final two runs of the six-run 12th-inning outburst.

In San Francisco, Mark Petkovsek and four relievers combined on a five-hitter and Ray Lankford's sixth-inning RBI double accounted for the game's only run as the St. Louis Cardinals blanked the Giants 1-0.

St. Louis has won 10 of its last 11 games and leads the Houston Astros by 2 1/2 games in the central division.

Petkovsek (11-2) allowed two hits, walked three and struck out three. Tooy Fossas, Cory Bailey, Rick Honeycutt and Dennis Eckersley combined to allow three hits over the final four innings, with Eckersley getting the final four outs for his 27th save.

In San Diego, Steve Finley hit a two-run homer off reliever Joe Boever with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, lifting the Padres to a 6-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

With their fourth consecutive win, the Padres remain tied with the Los Angeles Dodgers atop the Western Division.

With the Padres trailing 5-4 and two out in the bottom of the ninth, Wally Joyner drew a walk off boever (0-1) to set up Finley, who belted Boever's 0-2 pitch over the right-field wall for his 24th homer.

Trevor Hoffman (8-4)

was credited with the win, despite allowing a run in the top of the ninth.

In Chicago, Luis Gonzalez hit a two-run single and Ozzie Timmons belted a two-run homer as the Cubs forced the Montreal Expos to use nine pitchers in a 10-3 rout.

The Expos, who tied the record for pitchers used in a nine-inning game set by the St. Louis Browns in 1949, dropped 1-1/2 games back in the race for the NL wild-card berth.

In Houston, Craig Biggio's sacrifice fly capped a three-run eighth inning and lifted the Astros to a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

With the Phillies leading 3-1, Orlando Miller and Derrick May opened the eighth with singles off Curt Schilling (7-9). Houston tied the game by scoring one run on a throwing error by Schilling and another on a Schilling wild pitch.

Biggio followed with a sacrifice fly that scored Brian Hunter with the winning run.

At Colorado, Andres Galarraga hit a solo homer and Eric Young added a two-run single during a four-run seventh inning and the Rockies held on for a 9-8 win over the Atlanta Braves.

Darren Holmes (4-4) worked one scoreless inning for the victory and Bruce Ruffin notched his 21st save despite giving up two runs in the ninth as the slumping Braves lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Galarraga's homer was the 135th hit at home by the Rockies this season, eclipsing their 1995 Major-League record of 134.

In Los Angeles, Tom Candiotti scattered four hits over eight innings and Raul Mondesi went 4-for-4 with a triple and two RBIs as the Dodgers edged the Cincinnati Reds 5-4.

Candiotti (9-9) allowed two runs, walked two and fanned seven, including Curtis Goodwin in the eighth for the 1,500th strikeout of his career.

Todd Worrell picked up his 41st save despite giving up two runs in the ninth.

## Man. City chairman denies oil-money claims

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester City chairman Francis Lee hit back Wednesday at claims that he was to blame for the club losing out on a possible 70 million pounds (about \$110million) Arab oil bonanza.

City, struggling to recover from the blow of relegation and still without a manager following Alan Ball's resignation, have been constantly linked with takeover speculation.

Reports suggested that two oil-rich Middle Eastern princes were said to be ready to pump up to 70 million pounds into the club but their financial advisers broke off discussions, accusing Lee of failing to produce the necessary information on the state of the club's finances.

But Lee insists he is not at fault, saying: "It's important when you negotiate with someone on these matters that you know who is ultimately going to take the interest in the club and I have never been assured of that."

Lee said that over the past 18 months or so he had talks with half a dozen people who wanted to invest in the club.

And, having signed letters of confidentiality, none of them had ever come back with firm offers. Neither had they said what type of money they were talking about to invest in the club.

Crystal Palace boss Dave Bassett meanwhile insisted he had not been approached by City about the vacant manager's job at "Moline Road."

City, still searching for a replacement for Ball, are reported to have turned their attention to Bassett after Sheffield United refused permission for them to approach Howard Keodall.

Bassett, a former Wimbledon, Watford and Sheffield United manager, insisted: "No one from Manchester City has spoken to me about the job there."

## Hungary confirms Olympic swim scam

BUDAPEST (AP) — Half of Hungary's swimming team, which won six Olympic medals, qualified for the Atlanta Games on the basis of fictitious times from a meet that was never held.

Government officials confirmed newspaper reports of the scam and blamed the Hungarian Swimming Federation for submitting the fraudulent records. "Fraud is fraud, and this was fraud," said Rezszo Gallov, who heads the government's national gymnastics and sports office.

"We and the Hungarian Olympic Committee oppose any such practice."

Gallov said 11 of the 22-member Hungarian team had not met Olympic qualification times at national and regional meets. So a phantom meet was held and imaginary times were entered. Two swimmers were even disqualified for the sake of authenticity.

"These swimmers were all capable of meeting the Olympic requirements," Gallov said.

"The trouble was that the federation leaders were too lazy to keep proper records. This meet should have been held, or at least a training session should have been called a competition to meet the administrative requirements."

MTI, the state-owned news agency, said Tuesday that federation head Tamas Gyarmas had resigned because of the scam-

dal. The Hungarian federation submitted the false records from the phantom competition to FINA, swimming's international ruling body, which compiled the world ranking list on the basis of which Olympic competitors were selected.

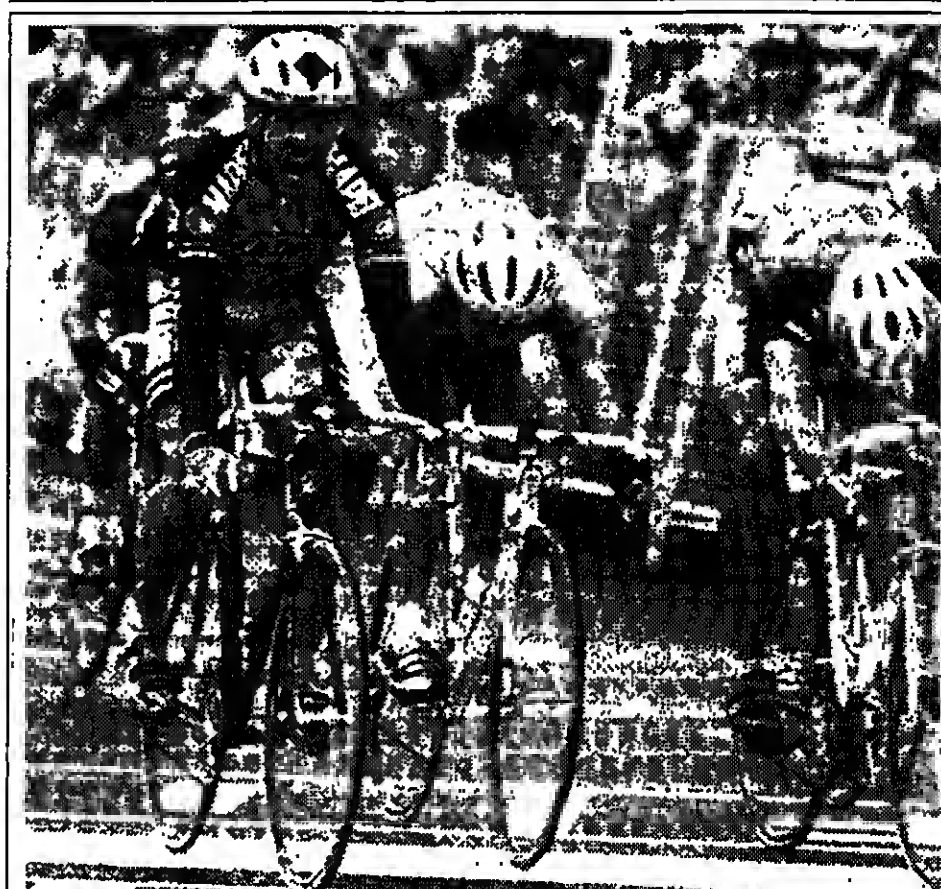
Listed as participants at the phony meet were Attila Czene, Tamas Deutsch and Attila Zubor, among the country's best swimmers. Czene was part of the gold-winning team that took the 200-metre medley.

The Hungarian Federation's General Secretary, Jozsef Ruza, refused to resign. He told state television Monday the international swim federation had been aware of the fraud. Federation head Cornel Marculescu denied his organisation knew or approved the scam.

"We don't have police around the world to check up on national committees," he said by phone from Lausanne, Switzerland.

The Hungarian swim team was among the most successful in any discipline at Atlanta with its six medals, three of them gold.

Gallov, the Hungarian official, said those involved had to be called to account but no medals won at Atlanta were in jeopardy. Marculescu said the IOC might be called on to decide what, if any, penalties to apply.



Tom Steels of Belgium (left) screams as he crosses the finish line winning the fourth stage of the Tour of Spain cycling race ahead of Germany's Marcel Wust (right) and Italy's Giovanni Lombardi. Frenchman Laurent Jalabert retained the race leader's yellow jersey (Reuters photo)

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### NOTICE TO ALL CANADIANS

**RECRUITEMENT TO CANADIAN FOREIGN SERVICE AND THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA)**

The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Citizenship and Immigration and CIDA will be recruiting officers. Examinations will take place Saturday October 19, 1996. Qualified Canadians may apply at the Embassy. (For info: 666-124).

### AVIS AUX CANADIENS

**RECRUTEMENT POUR LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES ET DU COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL ET L'AGENCE CANADIENNE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL (ACDI)**

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et du Commerce International canadien, Citoyenneté et Immigration ainsi que l'ACDI recruteront de nouveaux agents. L'examen aura lieu le samedi 19 octobre 1996. Les Canadiens qualifiés peuvent s'inscrire à l'Ambassade. (Pour info: 666-124).

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دائرة المقاولات الحكومية  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

### MODIFICATION NO (3)

Invitation for Prequalification of contractors for the construction of Al-Adasiya Storage Dam Central Tender No (141/96)

- Delete items No. (2) and No. (3) of modification No. (2) and substitute by the following:
    - The joint-venture or any authorised members of the joint-venture is requested to nominate in his offer the name of the regional sub-contractor (such authorisation is to be submitted with pre-qualification documents).
    - A signed agreement between the joint-venture and nominated regional sub-contractor should be presented to the Government Tenders Directorate (G.T.D) before tender award.
  - This modification shall be part of the pre-qualification documents.
- Chairman of the Central Committee  
Director General  
Eng. Naser Maddadha

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## Israel opens another crossing point for workers from Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israel opened a second crossing for Palestinian workers to enter the country from the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, the latest in a series of measures to ease the six-month-old closure of the territory, officials said.

"The Israelis opened Sufa checkpoint this morning and between 800 and 1,000 workers used the crossing to reach their jobs in farms and kibbutzes in southern Israel," said Al Mudalal, general director of the labour ministry, told AFP.

Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip in late February following a series of suicide bombings against Israeli by Palestinian radicals.

In recent weeks, Israel has reissued authorisation for 50,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to hold day jobs in the Jewish state.

But until Wednesday Gazans authorised to work in Israel had to pass through the Erez crossing in the far north of the Gaza Strip,

while Sufa and a third crossing at Karni were used only for merchandise and equipment.

This added hours of commuting time for the 1,000 workers, mostly from the Rafah region of the southern Gaza Strip, who held day jobs in southern Israel.

In announcing the reopening of Sufa to workers, the Israeli army maintained restrictions that only permit married men over the age of 30 from working in Israel.

Palestinian security agents set up their own checkpoint at Sufa Wednesday to ensure that all labourers crossing into Israel had the necessary Israeli permits before they walked through to the Israeli side.

Mr. Mudalal said that 18,500 workers crossed through the Erez checkpoint into Israel on Wednesday while another 2,000 entered an Israeli-controlled industrial zone inside the Erez crossing.

Israel's closure of the territories involved cancelling authorisations for some

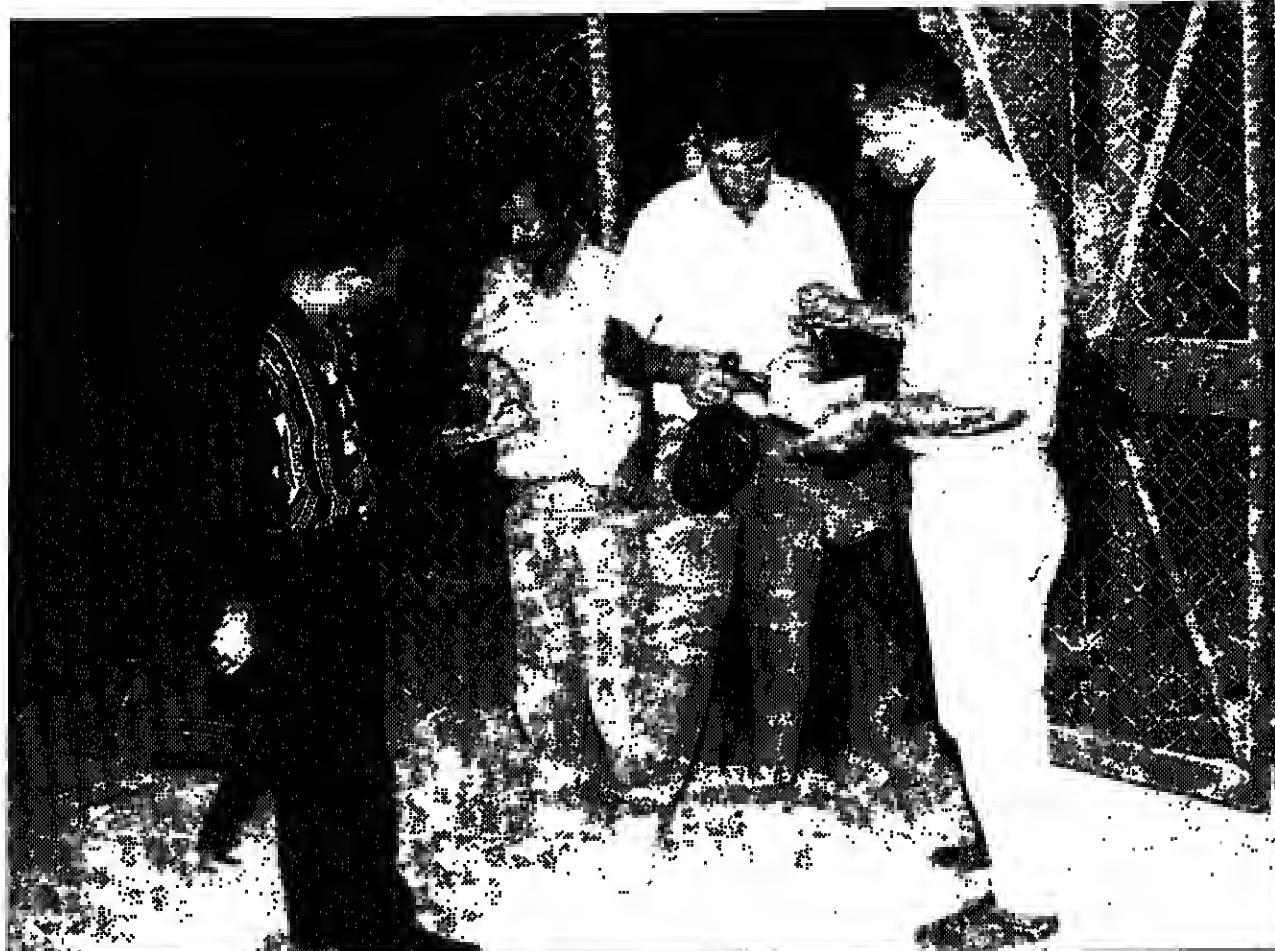
60,000 Palestinians to work legally inside Israel, while stricter security measures prevented thousands more from reaching jobs they had held clandestinely in the Jewish state.

In recent weeks, Israel has gradually eased the closure and 50,000 Palestinians are currently authorised to work in the country, although Israel Radio said Tuesday that only 37,000 actually enter the country each day.

The Palestinian National Authority headed by Yasser Arafat estimated that at the height of the closure, the territories were losing \$6 million per day because of the strictures.

The United Nations and World Bank have estimated that the PNA budget deficit will hit \$127 million this year, largely due to lost revenues caused by the closure.

Further measures to ease the closure are among the issues being discussed in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks which resumed Monday after a four-month break.



Two Palestinian security men check the permits of Palestinian workers crossing into Israel at the Sufa checkpoint in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

## NATO mobilises entire Bosnia force to avert trouble on election day

SARAJEVO (AFP) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is to mobilise its entire peace-keeping force in Bosnia in an unprecedented effort to keep violence from sinking the country's historic election day, a top commander said Wednesday.

Lieutenant-General Michael Walker, ground commander of the 52,000-strong Peace Implementation Force (PIF), said his troops will detain troublemakers and not allow Bosnia's factions to stop people voting on Saturday.

Special detention centres have been created to incarcerate "miscreants" if they block the complex efforts to get tens of thousands of voters across the country's former frontlines to vote, Gen. Walker said.

He also warned that IFOR "will not be hamstrung" by a plan drawn up by Serb, Muslim and Croat police chiefs to ferry voters to special polling stations that some critics believe will be used to prevent thousands from voting.

"We hope for the best and have prepared and planned for the worst," the British general said.

Violent incidents on the day are expected, Gen. Walker admitted, as for the first time headline Serb leaders open up roads in the half of Bosnia they control to Muslims and Croats they

chased from their homes during the war.

The interior ministries of the Serb and Muslim-Croat federation halves of Bosnia drew up plans to let voters come into former enemy territory to cast their ballots. Elections will have to use 19 special "voter motorways" to get to their home districts but will be prevented from visiting their former homes.

Critics believe that the plan in which police and IFOR resources will be concentrated on to provide security and prevent gridlock will close off other crossing points between the Serb and federation halves of Bosnia.

As part of the planning effort, NATO began Wednesday distributing 100,000 maps of the "voter motorways" to Bosnian voters. Gen. Walker, asked to name potential flashpoints, said he had earmarked the Serb-held towns of Doboj, Breko, Prijedor, and Sanski Mostar.

With the exception of the latter, all are in the north of the country and had pre-war non-Serb majorities who fled or were expelled from their homes by Serb extremists during the conflict.

Despite provisions in Bosnia's Dayton peace accords for the return of these people, few if any have been allowed to go home.

The same Serb hardliners

who organised the "ethnic cleansing" remain in power and are likely to be returned by Saturday elections.

Growing impatience at Serb intransigence on this issue prompted the lead U.N. refugee agency, the UNHCR, to warn the Bosnian Serbs they could have their aid cut if they do not cooperate, a spokesman said.

Top UNHCR envoy Soren Jessen-Petersen "made it clear (to the Serb leadership) that we do not see much of a future (for the UNHCR) in (the Serb-run half of Bosnia) unless returns of refugees and displaced people take place," a spokesman said.

Acting Serb President Biljana Plavcic said Mr. Jessen-Petersen "that while her government recognised the right of all refugees to return, this was in practice not possible for the moment because of 'lack of space'." Kris Janowski of the UNHCR said. Also on Wednesday, in Sarajevo the top U.S. military officer, General John Shalikashvili, refused to confirm that American troops would be part of a force expected to replace the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia.

Gen. Shalikashvili, in Sarajevo to review preparations for general elections, said there was "no planning" going on in the United States for a follow-on force.

## Amir, brother and cohort guilty of conspiracy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Yigal Amir, the jailed assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, was convicted Wednesday along with his brother and a third right-wing Jewish extremist of conspiracy to murder the former Israeli prime minister.

The Tel Aviv district court found Amir, 27, his brother Hagai, 26, and Dror Adani, 27, guilty of "conspiring to assassinate" Rabin, plotting anti-Arah attacks and illegal possession of explosives and weapons. Amir was already sentenced in March to life in prison plus six years for shooting Rabin dead on Nov. 4 at the end of a Tel Aviv peace rally and wounding one of the prime minister's bodyguards.

The three men will be sentenced on the conspiracy charges at a hearing on Oct. 3 and face up to 40 years in prison.

During their trial, Hagai Amir and Dror Adani admitted possessing and manufacturing explosives and other illegal weapons, but they denied taking part in any conspiracy to kill Rabin.

## Iran to reluctantly sign nuclear test ban treaty

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) despite strong reservations over the final text, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted as saying Wednesday.

"We were left with no choice — having to decide between a flawed treaty and abandoning the treaty altogether," said Mr. Zarif, who headed the Iranian delegation at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York on Tuesday.

"Based on an overall assessment and a strong desire for nuclear disarmament, Iran will go along with the treaty, while preserving its position on several points," Iran's official news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

The test ban treaty was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday by an overwhelming majority of 158 states, India, Bhutan and Libya voted against it and five states abstained.

Iran had objected to several points in the text of the treaty during negotiations in Geneva in August,

notably inclusion of Israel in the Middle East subgroup of the executive council that is to enforce the treaty.

Mr. Zarif charged that the text of the treaty in its present form did not go far enough, saying it only "banned explosions while leaving other avenues open" for nuclear proliferation.

"This text is grossly tilted in favour of a few nuclear weapons possessing states. It provides them with the opportunity to develop nuclear arms," he said.

He said his country would "double efforts in cooperating with other non-aligned states to push for a programme of nuclear disarmament within an agreed time-frame."

"We hope that other independent countries will join us in convincing nuclear weapons states that lame commitments to nuclear disarmament are not acceptable," the Iranian official said.

But he acknowledged that the treaty "with all its shortcomings should accelerate the process of nuclear disarmament."

## Opposition deputies will attend regular House session but will press demands

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition lawmakers announced Wednesday that they will end their boycott of the Lower House of Parliament sessions when the legislature convenes in its next ordinary session in October. But Deputy Tawfiq Faisal told a press conference held by the 23 parliamentarians that the lawmakers will attend the sessions to press their demands for the resignation of the government and for holding "corrupt officials" accountable.

In a statement they issued during the conference, the lawmakers reiterated charges that the government was no longer qualified to lead, contending that its resignation had become a popular demand.

Amidst new official statements that the Aug. 16 Karak riots were part of an Iraqi plan to topple the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, the opposition deputies asserted that the riots were a spontaneous reaction to the raising of bread prices and increased economic difficulties.

"The government is

wrong if it thinks that it has heard the end of the bread story... Nobody can silence hungry citizens who fear for their future," said the statement, which was read out by Islamic Action Front (IAF) spokesman Hamzeb Mansour.

The lawmakers also reviewed accusations that the arrests which followed the Karak riots were unjustified, and demanded access to the detainees.

The deputies demanded the immediate release of the detainees, charging that the arrests constitute "a new chapter in the encroachment on public freedoms."

IAF member Abdullah Akaileh said it was not unnatural for the opposition to use the dispute over the increase in bread prices to make political gains but he insisted that the lifting of subsidy for bread was not called for.

The government has said it raised bread prices in implementation of the International Monetary Fund-sponsored economic reform programme on which the Kingdom pins its hope for economic recovery.

It has insisted that it had no choice to lifting the subsidies, which, had they been

maintained, would have led to a huge budget deficit and jeopardised the reform programme.

It also said that the cash handout that it has started offering to citizens would offset the three fold increase in bread prices.

But the opposition lawmakers rejected this argument, citing a study by the consumer protection society that says the prices of about 400 other commodities have gone up after lifting the subsidy on bread and fodder as a proof that the cash payment would not compensate citizens, for the higher cost of living.

IAF member Abdul Munem Abu Zant challenged the government to hold a public debate on the increase in bread prices as well as other policies such as normalisation of ties with Israel.

Even though the IAF lawmakers ruled out resigning from the House as a method of protest against the government's policies, leftist Deputy Khalil Haddadin said other resignations could follow that of Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin who submitted his resignation to the House to protests what he called as the deputies' failure to defend

him against the "insult" which he said he suffered from Mr. Kabariti.

Mr. Haddadin, a member of the Jordanian Arab Baath Socialist Party which the government accuses of inciting the Karak riots, also criticised the government for the arrest of party leader Tayseer Humsi, who admitted he was in Karak when the riots erupted but stressed he had nothing to do with them.

In the statement, the lawmakers claimed that the government hid behind His Majesty King Hussein in order to pass the decision on the subsidies. But Mr. Kabariti has said that he took full responsibility for the move, which he described as a national priority.

The lawmakers also criticised the government for its policy on Iraq, demanding that it "halt its interference in (its) domestic affairs" while it goes on improving ties with Israel.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said Tuesday that while the government still hopes for change in Iraq, it had not interfered in its domestic affairs. He said that it was up to the Iraqi people to bring about change.

## PKK in contact with Ankara government, Ocalan reveals

CAIRO (Agencies) — Turkey's rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has been in contact with the government of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to resolve a 12-year armed struggle, PKK chief Abdullah Ocalan has said. "Contacts have been held with the Erbakan government but they have so far not gone beyond the preliminary phase," Mr. Ocalan told the Egyptian government weekly Al-Mussawir, "from somewhere in the Middle East."

"It is difficult to predict their outcome or even if they will be pursued. The situation in Ankara is more and more complicated," he told the newspaper. Last week Turkey announced plans to set up a "security zone" in northern Iraq to curb infiltration by the PKK, raising a storm of protest in the Arab World in defence of Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in PKK-related violence in southeastern Turkey since 1984, when the group began its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland.

Mr. Ocalan did not comment on the planned buffer zone in Iraq but said his organisation was waging a "legitimate resistance" to Ankara's "terrorism" against the Kurds.

The guerrilla operations were carried out by 35,000 PKK fighters on the borders of Turkey, in a campaign which costs Ankara more than \$10 billion a year, he said.

Mr. Ocalan also charged that Ankara had plotted a failed assassination bid against him when former Prime Minister

Tansu Ciller was in power, at a cost of \$85 million.

He criticised Mr. Erbakan, branding him a "Turkish nationalist whose positions are far from the essence of Islam and who is using religion to re-establish the Turkish caliphate." On the Middle East, Mr. Ocalan called for stronger Kurdish-Arab ties to confront Israel.

"The Arabs and the Kurds can work together to maintain stability in the region and protect it against Zionist ambitions," he said.

"We must reestablish the Arab-Kurdish alliance which reached a peak during the liberation of Jerusalem" from the Crusaders that was led by Kurdish hero Saladin in 1187.

Syrian Kurds and Egypt "are capable under the leadership of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak of playing a key role to achieve Arab-Kurdish rapprochement," Mr. Ocalan said.

The late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser was a "friend" of the Kurds, the PKK leader said, Turkey on Wednesday rejected Iraqi protests over Ankara's plans to establish a buffer zone extending 20 kilometres into northern Iraq to keep out PKK guerrillas.

"Turkey does not need approval from anyone to preserve its security," said foreign ministry spokesman Omer Akbel.

## Algerian secular opposition denounces conference

PARIS (R) — Algeria's main secular opposition parties said on Wednesday that next weekend's conference to chart a reform plan would bring no change to the violence-torn country.

"Instead of committing themselves firmly to a dynamic of returning peace and to a democratic process, the authorities have decided to carry out a process of authoritarian normalisation with the backing of some political parties," said the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) party.

The FFS, which came second in a first round of later-aborted general elections, was publicly rejecting an invitation from the presidency to attend a national conference over reforms to be convened on Saturday and Sunday.

"The FFS denounces this conference-alibi based on a fake consensus and destined to establish a constitutional dictatorship," it added.

The other main secular party, the Rally for Democracy and Culture (RCD), said the conference would have no impact in easing Algeria's civil strife.

"Except for the 70,000 dead (in the violence), we are (still) at 'square one'," RCD leader Said Saadi told the Algerian newspaper Liberte in an interview.

Western estimates put at more than 50,000 the number of people killed in Algeria's

violence since early 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Algerian newspapers on Wednesday echoed some opposition politicians' fears that any conference held without large political participation might worsen the civil strife.

"The talks held in the past six months with political parties over ways and means to settle the crisis ran into divergences and disagreements... The same components which led to the current tragedy are still always there," Liberte wrote in a commentary.

Al Watan newspaper said the pro-democratic opposition feared that the conference, held without conflicting views, might adopt a platform that would fuel increased violence and economic problems.

The RCD said it would boycott the conference because, it said, the authorities had come under the pressure of unnamed "shadowy groups" and backtracked on reform proposals, like the recognition of Berber as an official language alongside Arabic.

FFS leaders walked out last month from talks with President Liamine Zeroual accusing him of trying to force an "anti-Islamist front" rather than to reach a solution to end the violence.

## COLUMN 8

### Pulp wins Britain's Mercury Music Prize

LONDON (R) — British band Pulp walked away with the Mercury Music Prize for their hit Different Class at an awards ceremony Tuesday. The group nudged pass rival band Oasis who were hoping to clinch the award after sweeping three top prizes at the Brit awards in February. "The thing is with this award is that, even though we're very pleased to have it, we have already won because people have bought quite a lot of copies," Pulp's lead singer Jarvis Cocker said before presenting the £25,000 (\$38,840) prize to the Warchild Charity. "We would like to instigate a new award, the Pulp Music Award, and the two contenders for it are Warchild and the Help Album."

### Princess Stephanie poised for divorce

NICE (AFP) — Princess Stephanie of Monaco is poised to divorce her husband Daniel Ducruet after his picture caving — naked — with a topless cabaret dancer was splashed across the European press, her lawyer said Wednesday. Thierry Lacoste told the Nice-Matin daily that the princess "will certainly be heading toward divorce proceedings," but said no action had been initiated yet. A spokesman for the principality refused any comment on the lawyer's statement. "In a case like this, where sentiments can fluctuate, where your position one day is not necessarily the same the next, you have to remain prudent," Mr. Lacoste said. Mr. Ducruet, Princess Stephanie's former bodyguard, was photographed canoodling poolside with Belgian dancer Fili Houteman at a villa at Villefranche, near Monaco. The pictures appeared in a number of European papers and magazines. An eventual split between Princess Stephanie and Mr. Ducruet, who married in 1995 after having two children in 1992 and 1994, has been rumoured for some time. Mr. Lacoste could mediate between the two if divorce proceedings are informal, as he represents both of them. If it means going to court however, he said he "would not hesitate a single second and would act as the princess' lawyer and only for her."

### Fergie may be wild card for H. Kong tennis tournament

HONG KONG (AFP) — The Duchess of York may give a special invitation to a Hong Kong tennis tournament to watch her friend, Austrian tennis ace Thomas Muster, a press report said Wednesday. Organisers of Marlboro Championships Exhibition Tournament told the Hong Kong Standard they were considering making the cheeky invitation to the fun-loving duchess for the five-day event. Muster, with whom the duchess has been romantically linked, is competing in the event. "We have discussed giving an invitation to the duchess although at the moment it is half-serious and half-jest," said tournament director Brian Catton. "But we certainly haven't ruled it out at this stage," he said. Fergie has been romantically linked with the world number three tennis player ever since they met at a tournament in Qatar in February. In March, Muster's girlfriend Mariella Theiner reportedly claimed the duo were involved in an affair. But Muster insisted he and Sarah Ferguson were only good friends.

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